



## DUNNINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dunnington

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Headteacher: Clare Thompson

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Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear parent/ carer,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful festive break and managed to enjoy some rest amongst all the Christmas business. As a staff, we would like to thank children and families for all the kind messages, cards and gifts received at the end of last term. They were very much appreciated and gratefully received.

### Attendance

Next week, you will receive a letter which show your child's attendance for the academic year so far. We are so lucky that the vast majority of children have excellent attendance here at Dunnington and understand the importance of attending school.

Coming to school everyday helps children to have fun, learn, make new friends and experience new things. Even missing a few afternoons can make it much harder for your child to keep up with their learning and fully enjoy school.

We absolutely do not want you to send your child to school if they are unwell and really appreciate your support with this to try to prevent illnesses spreading around school. We understand that after a term, a nasty illness can have an effect on the percentage attendance your child has and we do always look at the reasons behind a child's absence when analysing attendance.

On the whole, good attendance is considered to be above 96%, and we are particularly worried when attendance slips below 90%, when a child is classed as a persistent absentee.

If we are worried about your child's attendance, we will get in touch next week to see if there is anything we can do to support. Likewise, if you have any concerns or questions about your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

**RESPECT – well done to all of the children who have epitomised our school values this week!**



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### Lost Property

We are starting to accumulate a lot of unnamed lost property in our cloakrooms. We will put this out on trestle tables in the school car park on Monday and Tuesday. Any unclaimed items will be donated to our PTA uniform store, used for school spares, or given to charity.

Please do continue to name children's uniform – we ensure anything named is returned to children as quickly as possible.

### Census Day – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026

It is school census day next week, on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026. There will be a special Pizza Party menu, where children will be able to select their own toppings. Jacket potatoes and a sandwich option will continue to be available.

As you may know, the school receives funding to allow any EYFS, year 1 or year 2 child to have free school meals. This funding is calculated from the number of pupils who order a school lunch on the three census days throughout the year so it is really important for our budget that as many children choose a school dinner on these days as possible.

If your child is unsure about trying a school lunch, they are welcome to bring in a packed lunch as well that they can have if they do not enjoy the school lunch.

Thank you for your support.



### OPAL – plea for scooters

If you have any unwanted scooters at home, we would be very grateful for them here in school. Thank you!

### DT Shoe Box:

As part of our theme this half term, pupils in KS1 will be making their own circus! For this they will need a shoe box. Please can you send your child in with a named shoe box before Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January.

### Smart Watches

We ask that children do not wear Smart Watches to school – thank you for your cooperation with this.

Well done Riley



Before Christmas, Riley received the incredible news that she has been selected to represent Team England in the Dance World Cup in Dublin in July.

The children representing England need to raise £10,000 towards essential costs including training, travel, and competition fees. Alongside corporate sponsorship opportunities, individual donations can be made via the GoFundMe link below: <https://gofund.me/b65d80945>



Well done to all the children who have been working hard at Numbots this week!

### Dates for your Diary

New dates will be added in bold each week

| January 2026   |   |
|--|---|
| Whole school DT week                                 | Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January – Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2026        |
| <b>Year 6 sit past SATS papers</b>                   | <b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b> |
| Census Day – Please order a school lunch if you can! | Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2026                                      |
| Deadline to apply for primary school places          | Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2026                                      |

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|   |  |
|---|--|
| Ambulance service in school                       | Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2026   |
| SATS evening for year 6 parents                   | Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2026 @ 5pm  |
| <b>February 2026</b>                              |  |
| Imam visit  | Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2026   |
| Last Day of Spring 1                              | Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026  |
| Half term   | Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026            |
| First day of Spring 2 – Children return to school | Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026  |
| <b>March 2026</b>                                 |  |
| <b>Year 6 sit past SATS papers</b>                | <b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>                    |
| Yoyo Easter visit                                 | Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March  |
| <b>Parent consultations</b>                       | <b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b><br><b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b> |
| Last day of the Spring term for pupils            | Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March  |
| Inset Day – School closed for pupils              | Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March  |

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

With very best wishes,

Clare Thompson

#### **Attachments:**

- Kindslingo French Clubs Flyer
- Children Commissioner Guide: “What I wish my parents or carers knew...”: A guide for parents and carers on managing children’s digital lives  
<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>
- YIKS Newsletter
- YLT January Safeguarding Newsletter
- Flyer about CAYP Webinar Series - Big Feelings and Big Reactions: Making Sense of Your Child’s Behaviour

### Driver Confidence Evening:

We're delighted to announce the return of one of our most popular and much-loved events... Driver Confidence Evening.

This annual charity event is designed to help you feel more confident, capable, and in control behind the wheel, whether you're a brand new driver or simply want to brush up on essential skills.

From 7:00pm to 9:30pm at Dunnington Motor Care Ltd, you'll enjoy a relaxed, friendly evening where you can move at your own pace through a range of hands on learning stations in our workshop, led by our brilliant team of experienced mechanics.

What you'll learn:

- What your engine and warning lights really mean
- How to check tyres (and even change one yourself!)
- How to check and top up vehicle fluids
- Simple but vital general vehicle maintenance tips

We're thrilled to welcome back the North Yorkshire Police Road Safety Team! Their sessions are always fun, engaging, and eye-opening, packed with real road policing stories that make you think differently about everyday driving. They'll also be bringing along their brand new, snazzy RST Volvo, so you can get up close and hands on with their vehicle.

New for this year – York Advanced Drivers! They'll have a demonstration vehicle on site to offer practical advice on whether your current driving position is safe, correct, and comfortable, a small change that can make a big difference.

K&D Recovery will also be joining us to talk through exactly what to do in the event of a breakdown, helping take the stress out of an already tricky situation.

Refreshments will be available throughout the evening, all included in your ticket price.

Tickets: £15 per person

Purchased online <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/driver-confidence-evening-hands-on-car-care-road-safety-tickets-1979970241291?aff=oddtcreator>

Tickets sell fast and numbers are limited, so don't delay!

Best of all, every penny of profit goes to Dunnington Primary School PTA, helping support our local community.


We can't wait to welcome you for an informative, confidence boosting, and genuinely enjoyable evening. Warm regards,

The Dunnington Motor Care Team'



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Inspire, Challenge, Enrich

## **YEAR 3 AND 4 FREE WORKSHOPS**

**22nd January 2026 4:30pm to  
6:00pm at Bootham Junior School.**

Choose from the below workshops:

- Paint Lab: Colour, Chaos & Creativity
- Codebreaking and Cryptography
- STEM: Squiggling and Fizzing
- Sew your own Antarctic Animal
- Magical Mini Terrariums
- Creative Writing (Adventurous Worlds)
- An Introduction to Laser Shooting

<https://booth.am/BookICEBJS>

If you are interested, please scan the QR to register your child. If you would like more information please email [jessica.birch@boothamschool.com](mailto:jessica.birch@boothamschool.com)

