



## DUNNINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dunnington

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Headteacher: Clare Thompson

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Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear parent/ carer,

It has been so lovely to have the children back in school this week and we have really enjoyed hearing about their holidays. We hope they all had a wonderful break and that you were also able to enjoy some time with the children.



### Super sewing!

Since coming back after Christmas, pupils have been busy creating and making as part of their design technology lessons.

Children in KS2 have worked in small groups to each produce a 'Book Buddy Bear'. They were tasked with designing and making a bear that is to be used in the new library for pupils to snuggle up with when reading a good book. The bears that have been produced so far are full of character and personality, they even have their own unique accessories and names, and have

made their way into the suitcase, ready to be hugged and snuggled. We are looking forward to seeing the rest of the bears joining them soon.

KS1 pupils have enjoyed making lion finger puppets linked to our circus topic. After reading the book: Jill and the Lion, children were inspired to make their own lions and retell the story.

All the children have really enjoyed their DT lessons and we are all so impressed by the quality of stitching in every bear and lion and the attention detail in each one.

It was lovely to hear that many of the children were inspired to continue sewing at home after doing so in school. A great effort by all and a key skill taught.

Mrs Priest  
DT & Art lead

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### DT Bears for the Library

In Yousafzai, Year 4/5 children explored the fascinating history of teddy bears and analysed existing products to understand what makes a classic companion. They then designed their own bears, carefully cutting templates and selecting fabric components with precision. Throughout the making process, the children worked collaboratively and safely, mastering a variety of stitches to assemble their creations. To give each bear a unique personality, children added bespoke embellishments and accessories.

We are delighted that these handmade bears will now remain in school as "reading buddies" in our library, providing a friendly face for children across the school to read to.



### OPAL ask!

We are trying hard to source items for our large loose parts play but after contacting many companies, we are still in need of a few items.

If you work for a supermarket, food production company or wholesalers or know someone who may be able to provide any of the following then please do get in touch with Mrs Priest. The more items we have, the bigger and better the imaginative play can be!

- Wooden pallets
- Vegetable crates – like the ones found in the supermarket isles for vegetables or ones that your online food shopping is delivered in. These are amazing for building and stacking.
- Milk or bottle crates

Here are some pictures from other schools who have OPAL for some ideas of the things we are trying to source.

Thank you!



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### World Book Day Reminder

We can't wait to celebrate reading and stories at Dunnington during the week of World Book Day and we are planning to have a 'Bedtime Stories' PJs dress up day on Friday 6th March. Children are free to come to school in their pyjamas, onesies, or comfy clothes ready to snuggle down with a story at some point in the day!

We are also running an optional competition to decorate a wooden spoon as a character from a book. We would love to then keep these spoons in our new school library to be used as spoon puppets in retelling stories. If children would like to join in with this, please can you make sure spoons are brought into school on Thursday 5th March (World Book Day) ready for judging. A few small prizes will be awarded on Friday 6th March. We can't wait to see what the children produce!



**Please note – if your child has PE on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, they are welcome to do PE in their PJs (with trainers) or they can bring a PE kit.**

World Book Day Menu:  
Option 1 on Thursday's (5.3.26) lunch menu will be changed from Chicken Korma to Beastly Chicken Burger and Fries for World Book Day.

### Well done Ryan

A big well done to Ryan in Year 4 who has achieved Grade 3 in his ABRSM practical piano exam. Ryan achieved the highest accolade of a Distinction which demonstrates the brilliant effort he has put into his musical progression. In class assembly this week, Ryan shared his award with us explaining to Yousafzai Year 4/5 about the preparations he had to make beforehand and the process he went through in the exam itself. His friends were eager to ask questions and congratulate his success - wonderful to see and hear! Mrs Pilkington and Year 4/5 are proud of your hard work, Ryan.



### Dates for your Diary

**New dates will be added in bold each week**

<b>February 2026</b>	
<b>March 2026</b>	
Year 6 sit past SATS papers	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March – Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2026

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World Book Day Bring in Wooden Spoons	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
World Book Day – PJ Day (or comfy clothes)	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Yoyo Easter visit	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March
Parent consultations	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
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

Best wishes,

Clare Thompson

**Attachments:**

- **YIKS Newsletter**
- **5 minute read – Telegram Fact Sheet**

## **The Mount School York: First Choice for Academic Success, Vibrant Co-Curriculars and Happy Pupils**

Come and see firsthand what makes The Mount so special, tour our leafy acres with current pupils and meet staff. See our brand-new custom-built dance studio.

The Good Schools Guide sums up The Mount School York, best: “A place of calm compassion in the heart of the city.” A happy school, pupils strive for personal excellence and make a positive contribution to their changing world.

With the highest A Level results in York, The Mount was proudly ranked in The Sunday Times’ Top Ten Independent Schools (North) for Academic Excellence 2025.

The co-educational Prep School sparks children's natural curiosity, while the all-girls’ Senior School and Sixth Form empower teenage girls to thrive. Founded in 1785, The Mount remains at the forefront of girls’ education.

New Head Anna Wilby, who has been with us for a year, says, “In an all-girls’ setting, pupils feel more comfortable speaking up, trying new things and pushing themselves academically, especially in subjects where girls are still underrepresented nationally like Physics, Computer Science and Economics. At The Mount there is no pressure to hold back, no fear of judgement, just space to grow. Our teaching is tailored to how girls learn best, encouraging not only knowledge but independence and self-belief.

We also believe in nurturing skills for the future: critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, digital literacy and emotional intelligence; the keys to unlocking opportunity in a world that is global, fast-paced and constantly evolving.”

To align with these STEM aims, Anna recently appointed AI expert, Dr Beth Lane, to lead Computer Science at The Mount. She has previously taught Computing, in all-girls’ independent schools in London, alongside running her own digital enterprise, The Institute of AI Education.

The Mount provides a compassionate ethos where pupils are instilled with confidence in their own voice and empowered to become ambitious, questioning global citizens driven by conscience.

Ask a Year 8: “The Mount empowers you to be your best!”

**Open Day: Saturday 7 March 2026, 10am – 1pm. Please book**

**here:** <https://www.mountschoolyork.co.uk/admissions/open-events/march-open-day-2026/>

**Or contact Admissions on (+44) 01904 667500  
or email: [admissions@mountschoolyork.co.uk](mailto:admissions@mountschoolyork.co.uk)**