



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 24th April 2026

Dear parent/carer,

You will have noticed that we have moved the fence in our Key Stage One playground. We are working to improve the outdoor space that our Early Years children can access. By making it bigger, we will enhance their outdoor provision to further encourage risk-taking and large-scale play with a real focus on physical development. This will also enable us to open the space to the year 1 children so they have access to outdoor as well as indoor learning through the course of the day.

If you require disabled access and struggle with mobility, you will still be able to use the gate by Over the Rainbow to access school and you are welcome to cut through this area. We ask that all other parents and carers use the other two gates to enter this area at drop off and pick up times so that any provision set up by Mrs Elliott and Mrs Priest can be preserved for the children.

Thank you for your understanding with this – we can't wait to see where the children's play will take them!

Outside OPAL Assembly!

This week the whole school came together for our OPAL assembly - held outside! The sun shone brightly as we introduced some exciting new equipment, including slack lines and pallets, which have sparked even more creativity and fun at playtimes.



Mrs Priest led a safety demonstration on moving and stacking the equipment, ensuring everyone understands the importance of safety while playing. Together, we discussed and established new rules for using the pallets and crates, promoting a safe and enjoyable environment for all.

It has been wonderful to see everyone embracing the new equipment in so many imaginative ways – I never knew tyres were such comfy seats to recline on. My personal highlight was seeing the year 5 footballers in full fancy dress – who knew flamenco skirts assisted striking!!

Long may the sunshine – and fun- continue: we have lots more we still have to introduce!

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



What has been going on in school this week ...

EYFS Class Learning

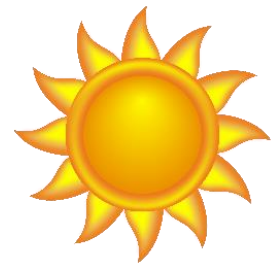


This half term, Anning class are learning all about minibeasts. We started the half term with a very exciting delivery of 5 caterpillars, and we are all enjoying watching them grow and wriggle about each day! We can't believe how much they have grown already and are very excited about them hopefully turning into beautiful butterflies!!

We have also enjoyed exploring *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* as part of our learning and learning the vocabulary for our Drawing club. I wonder if the children can remember and show you the actions they have learned for the following words: *famished*, *munch*, *feast*, *wriggle* and *transform*?

Owens Class

We have been learning about light in science. We have enjoyed using the new Bear Cave resources. These helped us understand that without light, we can't see anything. We have also investigated how shadows are formed. In our final experiment, we are using UV torches and UV beads to test which sunglasses are best for protecting our eyes from the sun. The children found the UV beads fascinating to use.

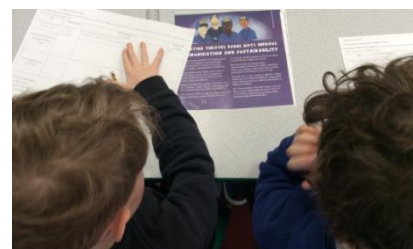
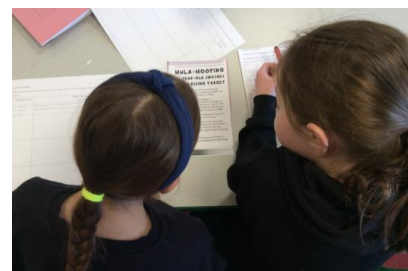


Yousafzai Class

In Yousafzai Year 4/5 we have had a busy and brilliant start to the summer term!

In English, children have stepped into their new role of being newspaper reporters, beginning this half term's writing journey by considering what makes an engaging article to 'hook' the reader. Everyone has enjoyed reading some humorous pieces that have sparked our creativity and provoked lots of great talk for writing.

As mathematicians, Year 5 have been exploring prime and composite numbers through practical working this week. Working collaboratively, children used arrays to demonstrate use of factors to identify whether a number is prime or not. This



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

practical approach has really strengthened their understanding and Mrs Pilkington has been impressed with children's reasoning skills.

The Pacific Ring of Fire has been our new focus in Year 4/5 geography. The children have worked thoughtfully, investigating geographical features and connecting their learning to active, dormant and extinct volcanoes around the world. We were surprised to find out that the Pacific Ring is home to around 75% of the world's volcanoes!

In the coming weeks we have lots to look forwards to, including delving into the world of plants in science, developing our printing skills in art, stepping back in time to Roman Britain for our history and utilising the warmer weather outside for our games lessons in the sunshine.

What a great start to the summer term!

Swimming

Year 4 had a fantastic first swimming lesson, splashing into the pool with enthusiasm and eagerness to demonstrate their skills.

Mrs Pilkington and Mrs Collins were proud of the peer support shown among the children during their first lesson – there was much encouragement and many kind words shared.

The children's behaviour was exemplary and they were a credit to our school when out and about – well done year 4.

We look forward to seeing children develop their swimming skills over the coming weeks. Thank you, as always, to the parents who were able to help.

Inclusion Learning Walk

Mrs Spence, our SENDCO, and I were lucky enough to visit each class this week to see how the needs of learners are supported. There was a lot to celebrate. Every single child in the school was able to access learning in their classrooms alongside their class. We saw a number of bespoke workstations, workspaces and safe spaces which enabled individual children to access learning and resources to support their learning. We saw great examples of adaptive teaching: resources such as adapted worksheets, adapted scaffolds, and varied manipulatives allowed all children to access the learning the whole class were doing. Visuals were used effectively to support dual coding of information and sensory supports were in place to help any child that needed them. We saw teachers and support staff skilfully provide children with prompts and support without interrupting the flow of the lessons. They were then able to target support within lessons, ensuring all learners, including the most vulnerable, were supported. There was a real focus on building the firm foundations – phonics, reading, number and handwriting – to make sure all learners were prepared for the next steps in their learning. The children we spoke to were overwhelmingly positive about school and the support they receive - especially the support from staff.

There is always stuff to develop: going forward we want to make even more use of flexible seating, so children can benefit from mixed ability pairings and peer support as well as targeted support from school staff and we want to continue to develop English and maths work stations in every class to enable children to access the resources they need independently.

Mobile devices

Attached is the school's statement on mobile devices, to be read in correlation with the Trust's statement on student's use of mobile phones and devices. The statement makes clear how the expectation of a phone free day is implemented here at Dunnington Primary School.

Hinduism Workshops

On Thursday 30th April children in year 3, 4, 5 and 6 will attend workshops on Hinduism held here in school: these workshops will provide an age-appropriate introduction to Hinduism and its key teachings through various games. There will be music and the opportunity for some volunteers to dress up. The children will then explore the symbols and forehead decoration used by Hindus for festivals and will see a demonstration of a traditional Arti ceremony with incense, water, lamps, flowers, and peacock fan.

A donation of £2.05 per child will cover the costs of the workshops. Donations can be made via Parentpay.

York Dodgeball Competition

On Thursday last week, a few of our lucky Year 6 pupils got the chance to play in the finals of the 'York Dodgeball Championships'. After playing Lakeside, in a qualifier, before half term, the team had a great few games with no losses; they ended up one point short of victory. Overall, we are very proud of them and thankful for Fulford for letting us use the space and providing student leaders. We are also thankful for the adults that made it happen.

Written by Elliott H

Dates for your Diary

New dates will be added in bold each week

April 2026	
Fulford Year 6 Transition Visit	Monday 27th April
Hinduism Visit – year 3, 4, 5 and 6	Thursday 30 th April
May 2026	
Class Photographs	Tuesday 5 th May
SATS week	Monday 11 th May – Thursday 14 th May
Active Afternoon led by Huntington School Pupils (Years 3-5)	Wednesday 13th May
Key Stage 2 Bake Sale – Raising money for Oscars	Thursday 21 st May
Last day of half term	Friday 22 nd May
Half Term Holiday	Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May
June 2026	
First Day back for children	Monday 1st June
Year 5 Residential – Boggle Hole	Monday 8 th June – Wednesday 10 th June
Year 1 Phonics Screener	Tuesday 9 th June
Year 4 Multiplication Check	Wednesday 10 th June
Summer Beach Day celebrating International Day of Play – parents invited	Thursday 11 th June

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



Years 3, 4 and 5 complete NFER assessments	w/b Monday 15 th June
Whole school visit to York Mosque over three mornings	Tuesday 16 th June - EYFS and KS1 Wednesday 17 th June - Year 5 and 6 Thursday 18 th June - Year 3 and 4
Yoyo prayer spaces in church for years 2 and 3	Wednesday 17 th June
Yoyo prayer spaces in church for years 4 and 5	Thursday 18 th June
Film Night	Friday 19 th June
Year 6 residential – Low Mill	Monday 22 nd June – Wednesday 24 th June
Colour Run – Raising money for Candlelighters	Friday 26 th June
July 2026	
Sports Day – KS2am, KS1pm	Wednesday 8 th July (reserve date Wednesday 15 th July)
EYFS and Key Stage 1 Bake Sale – Raising money for Oscars	Thursday 9 th July
Reports out to parents	Friday 10 th July
KS2 production dress rehearsal	Friday 10 th July
KS2 production	Monday 13 th July – 1:30pm Monday 13 th July – 6pm Tuesday 14 th July – 6pm
Year 6 Leavers Assembly and Tea	Thursday 16 th July – 1:30pm
School Disco	Thursday 16 th July EYFS and KS1 – 5pm – 6pm KS2 6:15pm – 7:15pm
Leavers’ Service in St Nicholas Church (no parents)	Friday 17 th July – 10am
Last day of the summer term	Friday 17 th July
Disaggregated Inset Day – no children in school	Monday 20 th July

Best wishes,

Clare Thompson

Attachments:

- **Mobile Phone and Smart Devices Local School Statement**
- **Parent carer Forum Newsletter**



DUNNINGTON IN BLOOM

COFFEE MORNING



SATURDAY 16TH MAY



10-12 PM



DUNNINGTON READING ROOMS

GRAND RAFFLE

STALLS INCLUDE:

-  Cakes
-  Books
-  Cancer Shop
-  Butterfly Chocolates
-  Jams
-  Cards and Small Gifts
-  Botanics





SEND CENTRAL



COME AND JOIN US AT SEND CENTRAL MARKET PLACE 23rd April 4pm- 6pm

We will have a range of stalls from the statutory services that work within SEND CENTRAL. You can drop in, say hello, and find out how they can support you and your family.

This is a great chance to learn what services are available in your local community, speak directly with different teams in one place and make connections that can help you now and in the future.

Everyone is welcome.

Stands present will include:

SEND CENTRAL- Local Offer; Parent Carer Forum York; SENDIASS; Local Authority Specialist Teaching Teams; Early Help Short Breaks (the application window is open!); Portage; Family Information Service York; Wellbeing In Mind; Specialist Learning and Employment Team (post 16s SEND opportunities); York Independent Living and Travel Skills Service; School Transport (SEND), Educational Psychology; SEN Casework Team; York Inspirational Kids- will also offer an open evening.

No need to book just come along: SEND CENTRAL on the grounds of Clifton Green Primary School, YO30 6JA. Any questions ring us on 01904 555076 or email SENDCENTRAL@york.gov.uk

Supported by:



Delivered by:





T E D D Y B E A R

JOSEPH ROWNTREE THEATRE
1849-1930-2019

Zip Wire Challenge

Has your teddy bear got a head for heights?

Games

Stalls

Cakes

Drinks

Monday 4 May 2026
10.30am-4.30pm
Joseph Rowntree Theatre

A fundraising event for the Joseph Rowntree Theatre registered charity number 1098329

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