



DUNNINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dunnington

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Headteacher: Clare Thompson

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Friday 16th October 2026

Dear parent/carer,

We are hurtling towards the end of this half-term with only one week left before the holiday. I am sure that all of the children will feel very ready for a break – the summer holidays certainly feel a long time ago.

Please remember that there is an inset day on Friday 23rd October, so the children's last day is Thursday 22nd October. The staff are looking forward to the Yorkshire Learning Trust's collaborative inset day, the focus of which is on writing pedagogy.

It really has been a super half-term, filled with lots of learning, but also sporting events and other opportunities for enrichment – all of which are so important to us here at Dunnington. More than ever, the children have been absolutely superb, showing a love of learning, confidence, resilience, friendship and kindness.

Thank you to those of you who were able to join us in church yesterday and to those of you who accompanied us walking to and from school. Both services were lovely: the children sang and performed beautifully - it is good to see that Harvest Samba and Cauliflowers Fluffy remain just as popular with parents as ever!

As this will be the final newsletter before half-term, I hope everyone has a lovely break when it arrives, and the opportunity to have some rest.

A Fond Farewell to Mrs Lockwood

Next week, we say a very fond farewell to a much-loved member of our school family, Mrs Lockwood, who is leaving us after more than 20 years of dedicated service.

During that time, she has made a real and lasting difference to countless children, families and colleagues. Always ready to listen, reassure, help or simply make someone's day a little easier, her kindness, humour and care have been at the heart of school life.

Many children will remember her as a trusted adult who celebrated their successes, helped them through worries and challenges and, of course, patched them up when needed! Her expertise in RE and Jigsaw, alongside her legendary first-aid skills, will certainly be missed by us all.

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After giving so much to our school and looking after so many others, it is now time for a new chapter filled with travel, adventures, laughter and plenty of well-deserved fun.

Thankfully, it isn't quite goodbye. We hope to tempt her back for the occasional residential, where those first-aid and problem-solving skills will undoubtedly come in very handy!

Mrs Lockwood - Thank you for more than 20 wonderful years of loyalty, friendship, kindness and commitment. You will always be part of our school family, and we wish you every happiness for the exciting adventures ahead.

Our new HLTA, Miss Duncan, will be in school throughout next week to make sure she is fully prepared for taking on the role after half-term.

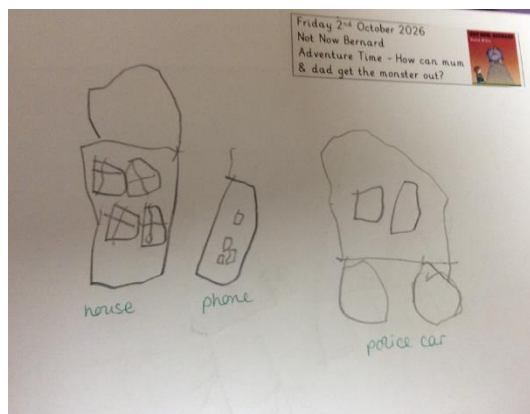
Class updates

Earhart Class

What a busy first half term class we've had in Earhart class! The reception children have settled so well and so quickly into school life - I'm incredibly proud of them all.

We have been enjoying getting used to our classroom and exploring all of our provision areas both inside and outside, as well as making a great start on our learning. The children are really enjoying Drawing club - sharing stories, learning new vocabulary (ask them all what discombobulated means!!) and expressing our ideas in pictures and writing; they have loved teaching Harry the hedgehog to count in maths sessions and they are all doing well learning our early sounds in phonics. We have also enjoyed our forest school sessions and learning about the Zones of Regulation.

I can't wait to continue our adventures next half term!



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Goodall Class

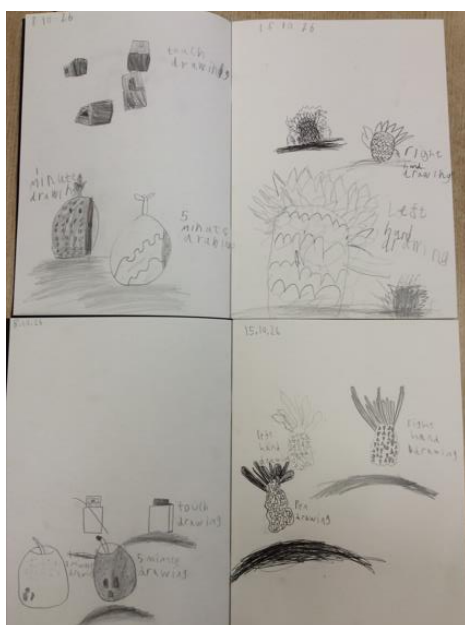
In Science, Year 1 have been learning about plants in our environment. We have found lots of different plants in the school grounds and we have talked about the differences between garden plants and those which grow in the wild.



Hockney Class

Here in Hockney class, we have been enjoying exploring a range of drawing skills this half term. We have practised our observational drawing skills, looking closely at found natural materials as our starting point, observing each unique detail carefully. We then challenged ourselves and moved on to continuous line drawing (not taking our pencil off the paper until we had finished!), drawing the same object for different lengths of time, pen drawing and even trying to draw with our non-dominant hand. We held a mini art gallery at the end of each lesson, when all children looked at the brilliant art work that others in the class had made. It has been lovely to hear all of the positive comments about someone else's work.

Great work Hockney class – you are all fabulous artists!



Rashford Class

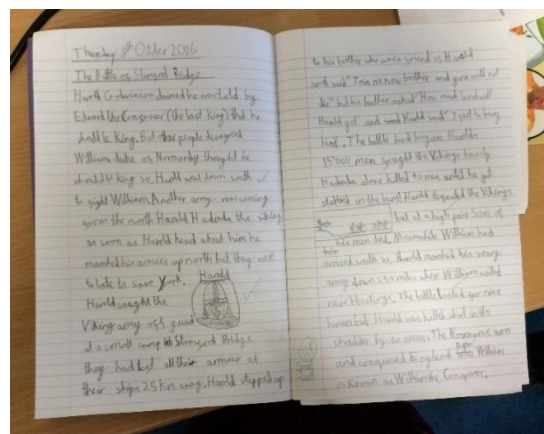
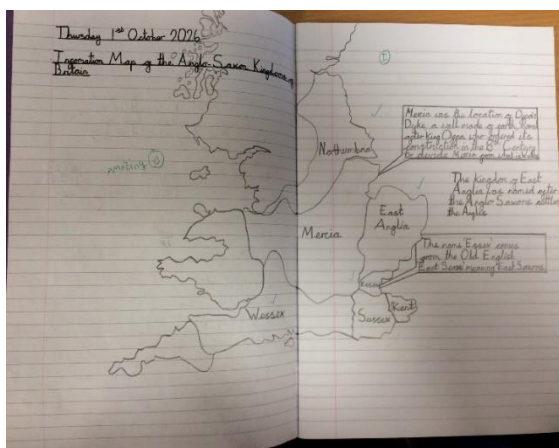
It has been a busy and exciting start to the year for Rashford class. We have been reading Charlotte's web and working on persuasive brochures to encourage people to come and see this 'terrific' pig. Do you like our spider drawings and pastel images of Charlotte? Our other display shows our cave paintings and bone necklaces, linked to our work on the fascinating period in history, known as The Stone Age. Songs have been helping us to learn our numbers and alphabet in French.



Parks Class

We have had a great start to the year and the children have enjoyed writing their own historical narratives from the point of view of an Anglo Saxon being invaded by the Vikings! In history, the children have loved finding out about the battle of Stamford Bridge! Many were enthralled to find out about things that had happened so close to their own homes.

Examples of their fantastic work can be seen below.



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Autumn 1 Learning in Johnson Class

There have been so many exciting things happening in our classroom this term where do we start?

In English, we have been writing diary narratives inspired by our class novel - *Holes* by Louis Sachar. The children have stepped into character to write creatively and ambitiously, developing their understanding of emotions, viewpoints and descriptive language to 'hook' their readers' attention.

Children are taking on 'Tough Ten' and 'Stretch' challenges as part of our morning starter work to improve their speed and accuracy when working mathematically in addition (no pun intended) to our daily math's lesson. Our favourite lesson this half term was definitely the outside calculation question 'hide and seek'.

In science, we have been exploring states of matter. The children have enjoyed a number of practical investigations, including the great balloon experiment. They were challenged to blow up the balloon using their knowledge of changing states (and without any lung power!) thus, applying scientific ideas in an engaging and memorable way.

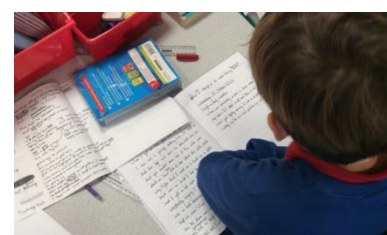
As part of PSHE, we have learnt about the power of having a positive growth mind-set, both in supporting ourselves and in encouraging others. Using oil pastels, we created bold and bright encouraging artwork for our classroom. These pieces help us to remember that effort, resilience and a willingness to learn can support us when we face challenges.

We have stepped back in time to learn more about the Anglo-Saxons in History lessons. We have focussed in on religion and delved into the Heroic Code, shared through some of the oldest literature in the world, *Beowulf*. We have also analysed artefacts found at Sutton Hoo by using evidence to develop our understanding of Anglo-Saxon life and beliefs.

Children have particularly enjoyed our mapping work in Geography lessons. As geographers, we have developed our OS symbol recognition and six-figure reference skills – if you are ever lost, ask a Year 6!

In RE, we have focussed on Christian belief in creation through exploring interpretations of Genesis 1 and making links between faith and science. The children think deeply, discuss thoughtfully and to consider a range of different perspectives during our lessons.

Mrs Pilkington is so proud of the positive attitude of Year 6 and the excellent role models they are being to our younger pupils.



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School Disco – 22.10.25

We are looking forward to seeing all of the children who are planning on coming to our Autumn Disco next week. I am hoping that the children come out a little less sweaty than they were after the summer disco. Thanks in advance to all the PTA members and staff who are giving up their time to put on this event for the children.

The Admission Consultation for admissions in 2028 – 2029 is open.

This Admission Consultation is being held by City of York Council and involves a number of Academy Trusts with schools within the city. The consultation will run between **12th October and 27th November 2026 (extended from 24th November)**. The consultation includes the admission policies and planned number of places available at each participating school/MAT in the year(s) of entry 2028-2029. If a MAT are unable to take part in the Coordinated Consultation, we will publish their consultation dates and link once it is available.

All documents can be found in their draft (pre-determined) form at <https://www.york.gov.uk/AdmissionsConsultation> during the consultation period.

Responses are being collated by the online surveys. Any schools, trusts, parents/carers and any interested parties may contribute to the Admission Consultation. Anyone wishing to contribute is invited to go to <https://www.york.gov.uk/AdmissionsConsultation> and complete the appropriate survey online.

Any comments received regarding a Multi Academy Trust policy or PAN change will be forwarded to the relevant Trust, who are their own admission authority, to consider within their own admission consultation and determination. Please be aware that if there are no proposed changes an admission authority may not be holding a consultation.

Following the consultations, each admission authority will formally set ('determine') their admission arrangements for admission in 2028 - 2029 by 28 February 2027. Determined policies will be on the City of York Council website by 15 March 2027 after which objections can be raised.

All documents can be found in their draft (pre-determined) form at <https://www.york.gov.uk/AdmissionsConsultation>. Determined policies can be found at <https://www.york.gov.uk/SchoolAdmissionPolicies>

If you require a paper copy of any document, you can request this from education@york.gov.uk or 01904 551554.



National School Attendance Award

2025/26 Academic Year



Dunnington Church of England Primary School

Top 25% of all FFT Primary Schools in England

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For children starting school in September 2027, we invite families to come and visit our welcoming school.

OPEN EVENING



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

This will be a drop in event where you will have the chance to see our inviting EYFS area, to meet staff and to ask questions.

DAY	TIME	PLACE
NOV 9	4 – 5PM	Dunnington CE Primary School

Dates for your diaries – new dates will be added in bold each week.

October 2026	
Disco 5pm – 6pm KS1 6:15 – 7:15 KS2	Thursday 22 nd October 2026
Last Day of Autumn 1 for children	Thursday 22 nd October 2026
Inset Day – no children in school Break up for half term	Friday 23 rd October 2026
November 2026	
Children return to school	Monday 2 nd November 2026
Open Evening for New Starters 2026	Monday 9 th November 2026 4pm – 5pm
Individual school photos	Thursday 12 th November 2026
Flu vaccinations	Monday 30 th November 2026
December 2025 2025	
Tree Decorating Assembly	Tuesday 1 st December 2026
EYFS and KS1 Nativity 2pm	Tuesday 8 th December 2026 Wednesday 9 th December 2026

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Christmas Service in Church Parents Welcome	Thursday 17 th December 2026 EYFS and KS1 @ 10am KS2 @ 11am
Open Classroom	Thursday 17 th December 3:30pm – 4:30pm
Last day of the Autumn Term	Friday 18 ^h December 2026

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

With very best wishes,

Clare Thompson

Attachments:

- Consultation on Yorkshire Learning Trust schools' admission arrangements 2028/29
- Parent Carer Forum Newsletter (on website)



OCTOBER HOLIDAY CLUB




Contact Us: otrmanager@overtherainbowyork.co.uk Church Lane, Dunnington, YO19 5QG

MONDAY 26 TH OCTOBER	TUESDAY 27 TH OCTOBER	WEDNESDAY 28 TH OCTOBER	KEY INFO
Cauldron making art and craft activity Halloween skittles and pumpkin bowling Decorate spiderweb biscuits	Halloween Muffin pizzas DIY Maze making Art and Craft Workshop - led by Canvas Cafe Art Club Extra charge: £2.50 Sensory tuff tray	Spooky slime making Spider toss game Baking: Ghost buns Broomstick making	COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR OCTOBER HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB! We are open for children aged 2-11. The cost per day is: £37 per full day (7.30am-5.30pm) £34 per 'school hours day' (8.45am-3.15pm) This includes all activities unless stated otherwise and a morning and afternoon snack. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please book early to avoid disappointment. We have very limited space for 2 yr olds and children with additional needs due to staff:child ratios. Once booked, we require 2 weeks written notice to cancel a place to avoid being charged.
THURSDAY 29 TH OCTOBER	FRIDAY 30 TH OCTOBER	WHAT TO BRING	
Breadstick wands or brooms Make your own stress ball Capoeira Brazilian Martial Art class - led by Emily Extra charge: £2 Skeleton scavenger hunt	Decorate trick or treat bags Halloween hot dogs & spooky veg Mocktails Halloween party and spooky games Costume parade	Please bring a packed lunch (NO NUTS), water bottle, warm clothing and a waterproof coat (all named please!)	

Bee-Friendly Blossom for your Community

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@DunningtonGIG is looking forward to returning to your school with our 6th not-for-profit Community Garden Trees & Shrubs Scheme. The scheme is open to parents/guardians of current students at host schools, current staff of host schools and residents of Stockton-on-the-Forest, Osbaldwick, Holtby, Warthill, Gate Helmsley and Dunnington.

We're bringing on the blossom with budget-friendly, wildlife-loving shrubs and trees to suit gardens of all sizes. This year, our costs are just £2.50 per shrub/tree and donations beyond costs will go to York Mind.

To celebrate National Tree Week, we have 6 buzz-bringing beauties: Crab Apple, with sweet-smelling, pinky-white blossom and small yellow fruits loved by birds; Pear, a favourite with wildlife with attractive autumn leaf colour; Plum, with early blossom providing essential early nectar for bees emerging from their winter sleep; Hawthorn, a biodiversity champion supporting over 300 insects; Elder, which can be pruned as a shrub; and Dogwood (aka Cornus) which has crimson stems for winter interest.

Pls EMAIL DunningtonGIG@gmail.com with your VILLAGE NAME to receive an invitation to order (inc FAQs) BEFORE OUR DEADLINE, so you can COMPLETE YOUR ORDER by our deadline at midnight Sunday 15th November.

Don't miss out! Make a bee-line for our planet-positive, community-spirited project!



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We are delighted to invite pupils and staff in Years 4-6 to a special Made By Dyslexia event on Monday 2 November from 3-4pm at St Peter's School, Clifton, York. YO30 6AB.

This pupil-only session will include a screening of the inspiring *Made By Dyslexia* film, which celebrates the strengths, creativity and unique ways of thinking associated with dyslexia.

Through powerful stories and engaging content, the film helps children to better understand neurodiversity, recognise different learning styles, and appreciate the talents that can come from thinking differently.

The event aims to encourage curiosity, empathy, and confidence, helping pupils to see that every learner has their own strengths and contributions to make.

Please note: This event is for Junior School pupils and staff in **Years 4-6** only.

To register your space, please use [this link](#).