



## DUNNINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pear Tree Lane

Dunnington

York YO19 5QG

Tel 01904 552910

[dunningtonprimary.school@york.gov.uk](mailto:dunningtonprimary.school@york.gov.uk)

[www.dunningtonprimary.co.uk](http://www.dunningtonprimary.co.uk)

Head of School: Clare Thompson

[headofschool.dunningtonprimary@york.gov.uk](mailto:headofschool.dunningtonprimary@york.gov.uk)

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear parent/ carer,

### Message from Mrs Thompson

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful festive break. I know there has been a lot of coughs, colds and bugs going around - I hope you have all managed to stay as well as possible and 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.

It has been wonderful to have the children back in school – when I have been popping into classes, I have seen that they have returned with brilliant attitudes and are eager and ready to learn.

If you are a year 6 parent, please remember that Miss Dickenson is holding a year 6 information evening about SATS tomorrow at 6pm. Information can be sent home for those unable to attend.

There is also going to be an open afternoon on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January for all classes, where you will have the opportunity to visit the classroom after school (between 3:30 and 5:00) and see your child's work. We know the children will love having the opportunity to share all their brilliant work with you.

### Our House Point System

In 2018, our school council worked with the pupil body to introduce a new house point system throughout the school. They decided that, on entry to school, all pupils would be allocated to one of four houses: Craven (Green), Rowntree (Yellow), Terry (Blue) or Tuke (Red). The houses were named after famous confectioners in the York area.

House points form a part of our whole school reward system at Dunnington CE Primary School. Events, such as sports day, bring children together to compete in their houses. The house system encourages a team ethos across the school and allows children of all ages to have a common goal.

Whilst we expect all children to be ready to learn, respectful and safe at all times, our house points are used to reward children for 'taking that extra step' for example;

- Helping and caring for others
- Demonstrating high levels of enthusiasm, courtesy, collaboration or cooperation

- Persevering with a challenge
- Striving to improve.

Congratulations to all in **Craven House** who had gained the most points when we broke up for Christmas. Next Friday (19<sup>th</sup> January) they will have a non-uniform day.

Craven	406 House Points	Terry	369 House Points
Rowntree	388 House Points	Tuke	388 House Points

Let's see which house manages to gain the points in the next, very short, half-term! The cumulative total for the whole year will result in the children from that house being awarded the house cup!

### Space Virtual Reality Workshop

Year 5 have had a very exciting start to the term training to be astronauts. Today, alongside year 1 and year 2, they had the amazing opportunity to participate in a space virtual reality workshop.

They told me all about it:

*"We split the class in two – half were painting galaxies and half were doing the workshop. In the workshop, we were given VR headsets which we had to hold up to our eyes – a bit like binoculars. At first, it started off in a spaceship that felt like a rollercoaster – at the end of the rollercoaster you got blasted into space!*

*Then we went through all the planets-- Venus was the most interesting – we learned it was the evil sister of earth. We also learned you can fit 1300 Earths inside Jupiter! Wow! Jupiter has a red spot that can swallow the equivalent of 3 earths at once – it will be gone in 60 years according to scientists. We also learned that we could actually live on Mars because there is water there – there's a possibility that we could turn Mars green in 600 years.*

*It was an amazingly fun and interesting experience!"*

**Holly, Soloman, Chester, Isabella (year 5)**



### Competition Winners

Well done to year 5 and Miss Sugden for being selected as a finalist in the Farm and Food for All National Primary Competition 2024. 149 schools entered the competition and year 5 have been selected as one of 8 finalists. This means we will be able to take part in a farm and school visit. What superstars you are year 5!

## Donations

Thank you to everyone who has donated to school via ParentPay. We were short of breaking even on the pantomime, campfire experience and VR workshop we booked last term, but these donations have covered the shortfall. This means that we are more able to continue to take advantage of the various enrichment opportunities the children find so valuable.

We also want to thank you for your support at the Christmas services, where we raised an amazing £347.15 for our chosen charities.

## Five-minute watch

We have been asked to share these videos with you about safety on the railways. We will also be showing them to the children in school.

Suitable for KS1

<https://learnliveuk.com/ks1-primary-school-safety-talk/>

Suitable for KS2

<https://learnliveuk.com/network-rail-primary-school-safety-talk>

## Dates for your Diary

### Spring Term 2024

#### January 2024

Space Virtual Reality Workshop for year 1, 2 and 5	Wednesday 10th January 2024
Auditions for year 3 and 4 production – for year 4 pupils	Wednesday 10th January 2024 Thursday 11th January 2024
Year 6 parent meeting – SATS	Thursday 11th January 2024 – 6pm
Weekly catch up swimming begins	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
<b>Craven House non-uniform reward</b>	<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>
Open afternoon for parents – visit classrooms to see children’s work	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 3:30pm-5:00pm

#### February 2024

Schools closes for half term	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
Back to school	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024

#### March 2024

Year 3 and 4 production	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 – 6pm Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 6pm
World Book Day	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Music celebration assembly	Friday 8th March 2024
Parent consultations	Tuesday 12th March (until 6pm) Wednesday 13th March (until 7pm) Thursday 14th March (until 6pm)

	<b>Teachers will select 2-3 nights to complete their consultations which will be confirmed nearer the time.</b>
Easter Services at St Nicolas Church	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 – 10am EYFS & KS1/ 11am KS2
School closes for Easter	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024
Back to school	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2024

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

With very best wishes,

Clare Thompson