



DUNNINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dunnington

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Head of School: Clare Thompson

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Wednesday 8th May 2024

Dear parent/ carer,

Message from Mrs Thompson

I hope you all had a lovely bank holiday weekend – we are all feeling very confused about what day it is here!

It has been wonderful to have Miss Dickenson back in year 6 this week – I know the children have been thrilled to see her. This has given me more opportunity to walk around school and visit the classes – there has been so much brilliant work going on and it has been wonderful to see how motivated and engaged the children consistently are in their learning – well done to all the pupils and also to all of the staff, who really do go above and beyond to bring learning to life for the children.

Over the last few weeks in collective worship, we have been having a big push on knowing and understanding what our school values are and understanding the bible quotes that underpin our vision. As you will know, one of our values is politeness. The children at Dunnington are normally impeccably polite, but we have been having to remind children to say please and thank you at lunchtimes. Since they have been reminded, lots of the children have been trying really hard with this, and Kerry, the school cook, has noticed a real difference. Hopefully you are also hearing and seeing lots of pleases and thank yous at home.

During the next week, I will send out a survey relating to school communication. I really want to gather views on how we can communicate most effectively with you, both to share important information and celebrate the many successes of our school. I would like to have your feedback on this newsletter, how useful it is, how frequently you would like to receive it and whether other platforms, such as social media sites could be used to improve communication.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your views – I really appreciate it.

SATs – message to year 6

I am sure that those of you who have children in year 6 will be pleased that it is finally SATS week next week – whilst many of the children are looking forward to the tests and the opportunity to show off how brilliant they are, I know others will be feeling nervous.

I wanted to say to all of the children in year 6 that we are incredibly proud of each and every one of you. You have worked so hard this year, and throughout every year here at Dunnington, and you have done so with good humour and an amazing work ethic. You are all absolute superstars!

These tests are assessments in maths, reading, spelling, grammar and punctuation – things that you are all brilliant at – but there is so much else they do not assess – your talents over so many different areas, how caring and thoughtful you are, what brilliant friends you are and the hopes and dreams you all have.

Please don't worry about these tests this weekend. You will do your best and that is all that matters. Get lots of rest, eat lovely food, make sure you go to bed at a decent time and believe in yourselves – we all believe in you!

Good Luck – not that you need it!

Scooters and Bikes

I put a note in the newsletter a couple of weeks ago about concerns about the safety of children scooting and riding their bikes to school. Just this morning, we had a number of children riding around the village in a really dangerous way. We are genuinely concerned that there will be an accident if this continues. All of the children in year 5 and 6 have had pedestrian training and bikeability training, a huge focus of which is on safety, and therefore they should understand how to travel safely to school.

If your child does scoot or ride to school, would you please be able to talk to them about road safety.

We will reach out to individual parents if we see your child travelling in an unsafe way.

Thank you for your ongoing support with this issue.

Headlice

We have had reports of head lice in school over the last week. Please see attached NHS guidance on head lice and nits. We would really appreciate if everyone could check their children's hair.

Spotlight on writing

Dunnington has a reputation for producing fantastic writers and has consistently achieved writing results well above national average over the last few years. Because of this, Mrs Bradley has supported all of the other primary schools within South York MAT to develop their writing curriculum.

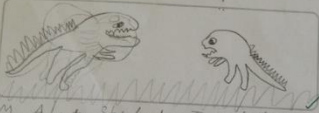
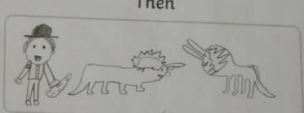
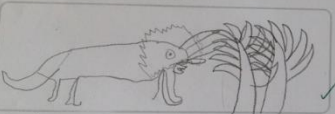
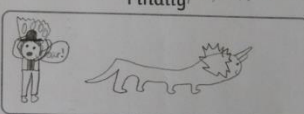
Over the last couple of weeks, the Senior Leadership Team has been moderating writing across the school and, unsurprisingly, we have been blown away by the quality of the writing we have seen. In particular, the vocabulary the children use and the amount the children are able to write is really impressive.

I thought we would shine a spotlight on writing from across different year groups over the coming weeks. This week, we are looking at some of the brilliant writing in year 2. Thank you to Molly, Jake, Daria and Emily for sharing your writing.

As the clock pushed me out I snatched up my hat which was about to fall into a muddy puddle. Then looking behind me I saw a Tegu lizard having a feast hanging only the lake then as if there was lightning it came to me, a brilliant idea, all animals need to drink so if I followed the river I might see a stegosaurus. After some time in the distance I saw a tiny brachiosaurus nothing I think he was only on his first two. At least half an hour later I spotted then a Mega Stegosaurus. I was in luck there was a whole herd of them. It was as if there was an explosion had taken place in my mind a whole herd of Stegosaurus right in front of my eyes. I pinched my finger hard it really had that much only one thing it was not a dream it was real. Real!! Even though I knew it wasn't a dream and it was real but still I couldn't help constantly rubbing my eyes to check it wasn't a trick of the light either but really it was real I was seeing my favourite dinosaurs out for the first time!!! ✓

Monday 22nd April
I was excited to see a Stegosaurus swishing its tail dramatically. I even had to crouch down because it was swinging its tail like a wrecking ball. Did you know that they are as big as a double decker bus? They love their greens and their herbs. On their tail they had razor sharp spikes which they used to swish and attack other dinosaurs. Finally I saw a Allosaurus and then it flashed blood into their plates to scare it away. Then I jumped into the clock. ✓

Wednesdayrd and Thursdayth April

First	Then
 <p>My Aunty said when I accidentally broke Hattie's horn I fell over in the boat. I saw two kids a girl and a boy I thought they were looking for pulling me they were stepping and shaking the boat.</p>	 <p>Then I climbed on top of a triceratops and took a ride. I decided to jump off as I saw some dinosaurs fighting. I saw them showing off to become leader. A big fight began and one lost a horn. Perfect!</p>
Next	Finally
 <p>I felt tired as I walked up the hill I saw triceratops they were very good plant eaters they were munching on the plants off the tree they were sooo cool. ✓</p>	 <p>The lead triceratops thought I had stolen his horn! So I had to act quickly. Reaching in my back pack I pulled out a colourful fan to use to scare him away. I was happy it worked! Finally I headed back to the museum. ✓</p>

What would the dinosaurs do today?

If the dinosaurs were around today they would score sick off robbers who are trying to take things!

Push away the rain clouds with their long necks so the sun would shine through.

Make super boats in the sea and take swimmers for a ride on the waves.

Make great mountains and then people can ski down their backs.

And the best thing is they can be peoples pets!

ADHD Friendly School Award

We are very excited to get started on our work towards becoming an ADHD Friendly School tonight after school. Because we are working towards this accreditation, we have this bespoke training in addition to the sessions that are being put on for education professionals across York as part of York's Neurodiversity Project.

I have re-attached information about the parent and carer sessions that have been planned over the coming weeks and months because several parents have fed back to me about how useful and informative the sessions have been.



French Day – what we got up to!

Thank you so much to Mrs Jones and all of the staff who made last week’s French Day such a success! The children completed a range of amazing activities – here is what Alexander and Isabella from year 3 had to tell us about the day:

“In year 3 we were learning about Coco Chanel. She was a famous fashion designer and she was the first person to make the little black dress so fashionable. We made a mood board

and used this to design our own materials. Mrs Jones let us use fabrics to do this. We also used lots of petals to make our own perfume, which smelled really nice! We tried to put our own initials on the bottle in the style of Coco Chanel. We even had hot chocolate, pain au chocolat and some baguette slices.

We also had an assembly where we all shared what we had learned. Year 1 and 2 made their own Eiffel Towers out of marshmallows, masking tape, straws and spaghetti! Reception and year 6 did some brilliant art based on French artists and year 5 cooked a ratatouille, which smelled delicious! Year 4 also learned some French music.

We also all tried our very best to speak a little French as well!

It was a brilliant day!”

Dates for your Diary

New dates will be added in bold each week

May 2024

Y5 Squash	Friday PMs Up until the 10 th May
Year 4 Swimming	Thursdays AMs Up until the 20 th June
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May – School closed
SATS week	Monday 13 th May – Thursday 16 th May
Class Photos	Thursday 16 th May
Census day/ Special Lunch	Thursday 16 th May
Year 2 Parent Consultations	Monday 20th May – 12:30pm-6:00pm
York Triathlon	Wednesday 22 nd May
Last day of half term for children	Thursday 23 rd May
Inset Day – School closed to pupils	Friday 24 th May

June 2024

First day back at school	Monday 3 rd June
Year 6 Residential to Boggle Hole	Monday 3 rd June – Wednesday 5 th June
Year 1 Phonics Screening Check (and year 2 re-takes)	Monday 10 th June to Friday 14 th June (week after for anyone absent during this week)
New Starter Parent’s Evening	Wednesday 12th June 6pm
Year 3 and 4 trip to Magna	Thursday 13 th June
Year 5 Residential to Newby Wiske	Monday 17 th June – Wednesday 19 th June
New starter afternoon for parents and children	Friday 21st June 2pm-3pm
New starter afternoons	Monday 24th June Tuesday 25th June

July 2024

Provisional KS2 Sports Day	Tuesday 2 nd July (Back up Thursday 4 th July)
Year 6 Transition Day	Wednesday 3 rd July
Reports sent out to parents	Friday 5 th July
Provisional KS1 Sports Day	Tuesday 9 th July (Back up Thursday 11 th July)
Year 5 and 6 Production	Tuesday 9 th July and Thursday 11 th July (evening- exact time TBC).
PTA Disco	Thursday 18 th July
Year 6 Leavers’ Service	Friday 19 th July
Last day of term for pupils	Friday 19 th July
Disaggregated Inset Day – school closed for pupils	Monday 22 nd July

As always, don’t hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

With very best wishes,

Clare Thompson

Attachments:

Five minute read – Childnet: Premium Rate Content and in-app purchases

<https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/premium-rate-content-parents/>

NHS guidance headlice and nits

York Neurodiversity Project- Parent and Carer sessions

The Friends of Hagg Wood

CELEBRATION

To commemorate the Forestry Track
being recognised as a Public Right of Way

Children's Fun Quiz and Walk in the wood

Saturday 1st June

Meet at 2.00pm at the far
end of Intake Lane

To join the party in the Sports Club
at 4.00pm for refreshments and prizes

**Come and have fun. All children to be
accompanied by an adult, at your own risk.**