



# Dringhouses Primary

## Newsletter

**Date:** 08.09.21

### A WORD FROM THE HEAD

'Do you remember? What it was like - September!'

We're back - after what was a summer of mixed climates, and I'm sure of mixed experiences all round.

I spent a lot of time with my family - my wife Gem is a teacher too, so we got plenty of time to hang out with my daughter Sulli, and puppy Mabel, who at times tried to out-do each other for the award of 'most irritating' swiftly followed my the award for 'most cute', although rarely did they synchronize on the latter of the two awards, but frequently managed to achieve the former at the same time. Such is life (#twoundertwo #blessed #painfulrequentlyuntruehashtags)

But I hope you managed to find time to relax yourselves and your families - and that the summer was one that you can look back on fondly, after an extended period of challenge where work, school, and life more generally has been concerned.

Over the summer, we've had the school knocked down and rebuilt. At least that's how it feels. I'm typing this on Wednesday 8th, and the last of the building team have only just gone. The staff from across the school have really done wonders to transform what you can see from the photos is still in part a building site into a new, fresh, and smart environment that I know the children will love. Either that or they won't notice a difference. We'll see. And you may notice our new architecturally correct logo too - a fantastic designer called Kris Howes helped us to create the Dringhouses Primary 2.0 representation - modernising while maintaining an idea of legacy. Success.

But returning to the school environment, a special mention and shout-out to our cleaning team here, particularly Debbie, Di, and Dean who have had a very different kind of cleaning to contend with over the last week. If you're fortunate enough to have/have had building work going on, you know the dust we're talking about. The library is the final area to be completed in the next few weeks, alongside resurfacing works on the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area). Another legend who deserves a special mention is Claire Neal, our School Business Manager, who has coordinated all of the work over the summer break - tirelessly holding building firms and York Council to account, and getting us upgrades left, right, and centre. Her piece de resistance will be the completed library, soon to be known as the 'Neal at the Altar of Reading' Suite. Maybe.

Today has been such a positive day - I've been and visited all of the classes, and caught up with new EYFS children and parents. It is so lovely to see our community back together in the same space, at the same time. We welcome new people to the team too: Hannah Foster, Jess Burgess, Lucy Boswell, Claire Nowell, Tilly Fothergill all join us and the school is better as a result already! The whole team is a genuine marvel, and to be working with them all is a real pleasure. Similarly, the children have been such good fun and excellent Dringhouses team members already: 'How are we alive and what started our world?' Laura McFarland was asked at break time. How's that for taking on the big questions of life on day one?!

Break time was a dream - the sun just added a halo of additional joy. We want our year to be filled with joy - last year was different, and we want to make sure that our people - children and staff - enjoy their time at Dringhouses Primary. This is one of our key priorities for the year ahead, and the future. The other being a refocus and promotion of reading across the school. Expect to hear about JOY and READING.

The only other reminder is that [hello@dringhouses.co.uk](mailto:hello@dringhouses.co.uk) is now up and running. If you need to get a message to the office, or to staff, use that one as the old admin@ address is only being used for commercial/promotional communications. This should make it easier for your emails to get through to the admin team.

I hope you've enjoyed your day - see you over the course of the next few days and weeks...in the playground...together!

Ben Sutton | **Headteacher**

