



Autumn Term - Date: 14.1.22

## Talking Head

Welcome to 2022, and isn't it glorious? Well, it certainly feels that way here at Dringhouses.

Everyone's come back in fine spirits after a generally relaxing and refreshing break.

We've already had science workshops with crazy concoctions, and Viking sword creating...there has been some terror around Dringhouses, that's for sure!

And with the first couple of weeks back now done, the continuing Covid issues seem to be holding themselves at bay...cases here and there, and certainly staffing impacts that make things tricky around the place, but nothing we can't handle. Claire in the office is becoming a pro' at calling three supply agencies in the city at the same time, and being able to feed back the news that 'there are none' to us calmly. Skills we need, people!

Still haven't had any retired teachers volunteer to be back in our classrooms yet...probably just getting their school shoes polished and ready for the daily commute again.

See you on the playground!

Ben Sutton | **Headteacher**

## Music Award!

The wonderful and musical Clare Clark has secured us the Music Mark Award, having been nominated by the local music hub.

It's in recognition of all the fantastic musical shenanigans that Clare, and then the school get up to across the year.

In fact, yesterday the children were assembly singing Imagine Dragons, today they were engaged in some Chorale Singing in classes...nothing if not varied!

So it's a massive congratulations from the school to Clare, a thank you for all that she does for our creative efforts here, and a well done to all the children for all of the musical endeavours that they get involved with...our school has SO much music going on!



## Support

Our ELSA (Emotional Learning Support Assistants) are FAB-YOU-LUSS! They're coordinated centrally by a schedule and timetable to try and work with as many children as possible, supporting them with a range of issues and challenges.

But the process is managed very carefully, and while it is entirely responsive and also proactive, if you children are finding things challenging, please make sure that you **present any information or requests to their class teacher** - regardless of any earlier interventions by ELSA/Wellbeing team- who will then pass the request through to Sarah Murray and Clare Smith, our mental-wellbeing coordinators, to assess and schedule work where appropriate.

This ensures fair process, and clear lines of communication that the team work with, rather than informal requests on the playground, or directly to the ELSAs, who as lovely as they are, aren't scheduling the cases.

Thanks!

## Social Media

Please see the letter attached at the bottom of this newsletter. It's from Laura Harper, who is our Police Primary School Liaison - she's appealing for wider monitoring of children's social media activity.

It's something that we feel strongly about here. WhatsApp have an age restriction/guidance attached to their T&Cs of 16 years Old...and their duty of care is primarily to their shareholders, not their users.

As much as WhatsApp is only an online 'conversation' tool, it is social media, and you need to parent its use very carefully to make sure you know what your children are engaging with, and critically, are being exposed to.

As you will know yourselves, if you open a WhatsApp Group Chat, you do not decide to see or unsee a message or a picture; it's just there.

So the question is: **How confident are you that your children's experience using the platform is positive and safe?**

Give Laura's letter a read.



## ParentPay

Schmarent-pay.

Bear with us - what else can we say?!



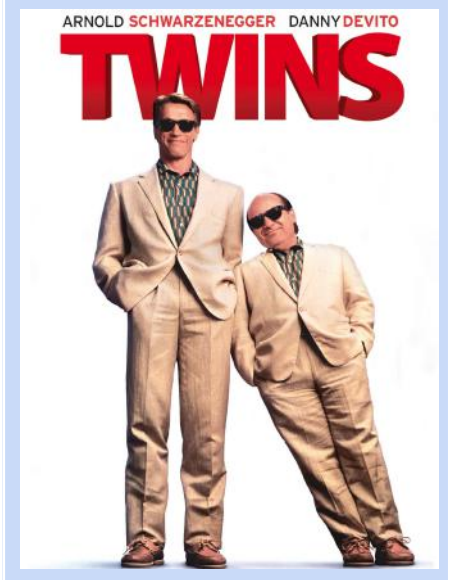
## Double Trouble

Just a personal announcement - my wife, Gem, and I are expecting another addition to our current Sutton Family line up of Sullivan and Mabel the dog: twins, due in June.

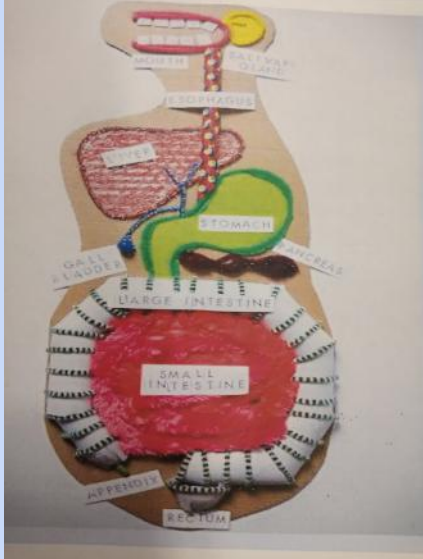
Needless to say, I didn't handle the news terribly well in the scan room - apparently I completed the longest blink known to the human race, and shook my head quite a lot. For quite a long time.

But I've come round to the idea (acceptance...the denial and bargaining stages now over) now, and it will be wonderful/ridiculous.

It takes a village to raise a child - therefore it takes a Dringhouses School to raise twins: sign up sheet for babysitting will be in the office.



## Pictures



## Pictures



## Covid / Testing Update:

- Primary chn DO NOT need to regularly test, unless they've been identified as a contact, then they need to lateral flow test for 7 days.
- If a PCR is taken within 2 days of a positive lateral flow and it's NEGATIVE, it overrides the lateral flow - therefore allowing a return to school.

You can find full details at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

HM Government

**We must keep on protecting each other.**

NHS

**HANDS** **FACE** **SPACE**

The poster features three circular icons: a pink circle with hands being washed, a blue circle with a face mask, and a green circle with two people and a double-headed arrow between them. The text 'HANDS', 'FACE', and 'SPACE' is written in bold, capital letters next to their respective icons.



13<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Parents /Carers

There have been a number of reports brought to the Police attention with regards incidents happening between children from Dringhouses Primary School over the internet, via Social Media apps and also the way they communicate whilst playing online games.

Please can I remind parent/carers that it is your responsibility to monitor both your children's internet activity, but also what they are accessing via their devices.

There are age limits for all Social Medias including WhatsApp (Age 16) – If you are unsure what the age limits are you can find these on [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk) along with safety advice on social medias, apps and games.

Children are encouraged to use the internet in a safe and sensible manner; however some have chosen not to do so. Please note that alongside school we will be taking these matters very seriously.

Regards

PCSO Laura Harper  
Primary School Liaison  
North Yorkshire Police