



Dring Digest w/e 24th February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

➤ **School Attendance Matters**

Going to school every day helps your child to get good qualifications, which will help them to get a job.

For more information on school absence in York visit:
www.york.gov.uk/SchoolAttendance

CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

#GoingInNotMissingOut

➤ **Pre-ordering School Meals – ACTION REQUIRED**

- The cost of food and ingredients is continuing to rise at an alarming rate.
- We want to be able to offer all of our children a nutritious and healthy balanced meal each day at a price that is affordable for all.
- To do this, we are looking at ways we can control our food production costs.

The best way that we can do this is by asking our families to pre-order their child's meals **at least one week in advance** so we can accurately predict our required food order for production the following week to avoid unnecessary over-spends and reduce waste.

Please pre-order your child's meal requirements for the following week by Thursday of the current week at the latest.

Pre-orders can be made using your child's parent pay account.

If pre-orders for meals have not been placed for the following week or your child does not have a packed lunch from home, then your child will be offered the option of a jacket potato with the filling of the day or you will be asked to bring them a packed lunch into school.

We hope that by families helping us with this mitigating measure that we can continue to hold our current meal price and avoid any cost increases.

➤ **New Parent Governor – Mark Newman**

We are delighted to announce that Mark Newman has been invited to join our school's governing body as a parent governor. Mark has two children at the school with a third child yet to start. He has worked in education for over 20 years and currently works as the Director for ICT & Data for a successful Multi Academy Trust. Over the course of his career, he has led many administrative roles in education including ICT, data, timetabling and exams and also has a wealth of experience leading and supporting schools in these areas.

➤ **SEND Newsletter and Local Offer**

Please find below a link which can be used to read the SEND newsletter and also access further information about the SEND Local Offer.

<https://www.yor-ok.org.uk/families/Local%20Offer/sendlocaloffer>

➤ **Save the Date – KS2 Choir**

We have been invited to take part in the York Schools Music Festival which will take place on Tuesday 28th March at York University. I am afraid I don't know any concrete details at the moment, other than: it will take

all day, we will travel to the university by coach, and the festival will probably end with a concert to which you are invited.

As soon as I know more I will let you know and we can sort out timings, numbers & transport. Thanks Mrs Clarke

➤ **Playtimes at Dring are changing...**

We are currently investing some time and money into the development of play at Dringhouses and this involves changing the culture around play and our play offer (please see letter). To help us develop this project we are asking if you have any of the following resources at home which you might be able to donate to the school to help us get ready for the project launch later this month (look out for more information on this)

- Small world (cars, dolls, trains, playmobil, figurines etc)
- Off cuts of guttering/drain pipes
- Planks of wood or slices of wood
- Crates
- Off cuts of artificial grass
- Large plastic drums/buckets or cable drums
- Pine cones and acorns (perhaps an afternoon in the spent in the woods seeing who can find the most might be lots of fun)
- Old pots and pans and other cooking utensils (no glass please)

Please bring your donations to the main school office. Thanks

➤ **Proposed redevelopment of the front of the school**

We are planning on making the front of the school more beautiful and inviting.

The ideas that we have so far are to include:

- Seating
- A solar powered water fountain
- Science equipment such as an outside thermometer and rain catcher
- A water butt to collect rain water
- Weather proof rugs
- A pebble patch - this will be a place for each child to add a painted stone to.
- Hardy plants such as lavender and rosemary which can attract insects and smell lovely.
- Stepping stones
- A herb area for the kitchen to use.

If you are able to help us source any of the above, have ideas of how to help create this area or are able to donate any of your time to help build the area once we have the materials we would love to hear from you...

Please let us know by popping in or email csmith@dringhouses.co.uk and we will get back to you as soon as possible.



➤ **World Book Day – 2nd March 2023**

Next week we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March with lots of fantastic activities in school. One of these will be that we will be holding a book swap! Children are able to bring in up to two books (please ensure that they are in good condition and no sticker/activity books) for them to swap with children from their phase. We will also be doing buddy reading across the school as well as a whole school assembly to celebrate the school's learning about 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers. Children will get their £1 World Book Day voucher when Derek and the Book Fair visit on Tuesday 7th March. KS1 Parents (classes 3, 4 & 5) are invited to join their child in enjoying lots of lovely books from 08:35-9:15am. Just to reiterate a message that was sent out in earlier communications, we **will not** be dressing up for World Book Day this year.



➤ **Children's parties and disco's**



➤ **KS2 PrimeVR Workshop**

On Monday 20th February, Prime VR (<https://primevr.co.uk/>) visited our school with class sets of virtual reality headsets to transport KS2 to the Ancient Maya as part of our learning project. The children took part in an awe-inspiring virtual trip to Mexico to explore the ancient city of Chichén Itzá, a UNESCO world heritage site and one of the Seven New Wonders of the World. The children were amazed by the whole experience and really enjoyed being transported to a different place through technology. Not only was the workshop incredibly informative, but the children came back from the workshop inspired to learn more about the Maya. They are now ready to apply their knowledge to their writing and history learning- we can't wait to see the results.



➤ **Year 5 and 6 Request**

In week 3 of our English work this half-term we will be learning about survival skills and spending some time at our forest school. We would love to have a go at building our own shelters so if you have any tarpaulins or ropes that we could borrow we would be greatly appreciated. We will need them in school by Friday 3rd March. Thank you

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SPOTIFY

Spotify is a digital music, podcast and video service which gives users access to millions of songs and other content from creators all over the world. Since launching in 2008, Spotify has revolutionised the way music is listened to: it now offers the ability to manage and share more than 100 million tracks and five million podcast series, plus personalised recommendations, new release updates and the option to create collaborative playlists. As of February 2023, it is the world's most popular audio streaming subscription service with 489 million users globally.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXPLICIT LYRICS

As per Spotify's terms and conditions, people need to be at least 13 to use it. That said, the platform doesn't censor lyrics unless instructed to do so in the settings – so it's worth noting that young teenagers could still be exposed to age-inappropriate songs which contain explicit references to sexual behaviour, violence, discriminatory language and swearing.

GROOMING TACTICS

Although Spotify doesn't come with dedicated chat functionality, concerns were raised in January 2023 after reports of an 11-year-old girl being coerced into sharing explicit pictures of herself on the platform. The case highlighted predators' tactics of sharing empty playlists with other users: their messages were being exchanged undetected through edited song titles and descriptions, bypassing security measures.

OVERSHARING

Spotify provides a perfect way to play music, with the ability to connect to another device, such as a Bluetooth speaker or an in-car stereo. While this is a useful feature, it's also easy to forget your surroundings and inadvertently play content which isn't appropriate for all listeners (especially those under the age of 18), potentially causing alarm or distress.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE PODCASTS

Spotify's podcast community has grown exponentially and it's become a popular base for millions of users to listen to shows, stories, interviews and more – with content covering an array of topics. This includes some material which isn't suitable for minors, including audio which is obviously adult-themed, but can be just as easily accessed as everything else.

ACCESS TO SPOTIFY LIVE

If your child has a Spotify account, they'll also be able to access the platform's audio-only chat service: Spotify Live. While it's a separate stand-alone app, Spotify Live allows people to listen to live discussions on the main Spotify platform and, more notably, lets users enter virtual rooms to chat with other users, opening up direct conversations with strangers and individuals who might not necessarily be there for the right reasons.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SWAP TO SPOTIFY KIDS

If you're concerned about what your child might hear while streaming music, Spotify Kids is a separate, ad-free service specifically designed for children aged 12 and under. It allows younger users to enjoy human-curated, child-friendly content (such as music and audiobooks) and is available to users with a Spotify Premium Family subscription – meaning that parents can view and manage the content their child listens to.

CENSOR EXPLICIT CONTENT

Regardless of what type of account your child uses to access Spotify, there is an option to turn off explicit content in the settings – greying out all songs marked with an 'E' tag. If your child has their own individual account, it's easier for them to turn it back on – whereas with a family plan, you're in control and your child can't alter the setting without knowing the password.

TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

As with any platform, it's good practice to talk to your child about what they should be aware of when using Spotify. For instance, it's important they're aware never to share any personal information with strangers, and what they should do if they're exposed to inappropriate content. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear so that they feel comfortable raising any concerns with you.

KEEP AN EYE OUT

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Spotify or you've noticed they're being particularly secretive about how they're using it, encourage them to talk about what they're listening to. It's always prudent to show an interest in their online habits from the outset – so you're confident they're using apps and services in the right way, for the right reasons, and they're not being drawn into anything they shouldn't be.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



Source: <https://newsroom.spotify.com/company-info/> | https://www.spotify.com/privacy/files/Parental_Guide.pdf | <https://www.spotify.com/us/live/> | <https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/police-confirm-investigation-launched-after-25916035>



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.02.2023

Level 2 Support Work in Schools & Colleges FREE Online Course

Would you like to gain a level 2 qualification in Support Work in Schools and Colleges and gain experience of volunteering in a local school?

The course seeks to develop the knowledge and understanding that those working in a school or college setting will need. Content includes safeguarding, health/safety, children and young people's development, equality, professional communication and understanding the school and college context.

The course will enable students to develop an understanding of working in a support role in a school and will promote parental engagement with children and young people's learning.

It is a course requirement that all students attend an Initial Assessment session

NSRF
Education & Skills
Funding Agency

matrix



wea.org.uk

Skills Check session

Date: Friday 10 Feb 2023

Time: 09.30 – 12.00

Online session on Zoom & Canvas
Course ID: C3681618 PIN: 64593

Level 2 Support Work in Schools Course

Dates: Fridays 24 Feb – 14 July 2023
(no sessions in school holidays)

Times: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm
(with a 1 hour lunch break)

Online course on Zoom & Canvas
Cost: FREE
Tutor: Katie Croft
Course ID: C3681116 PIN: 66497

*Course is for York, North Yorks, Hull,
E Riding, N & NE Lincs residents only

Contact Diane Quinney for course
information dquinney@wea.ac.uk

Enrolments: online at wea.org.uk
or phone: 0300 303 3464

The WEA is a charity registered in
England and Wales (no. 1113775) and in
Scotland (no. SC039239).



Helping in Schools

WEA
Adult Learning
Within Reach

Time out for Parentsspaces still available

Fancy a break? A bit of 'Time Out' for yourself?

The demands and routines of parenting children and young people mean that sometimes we need a bit of space to stop, think and catch our breath! Join our parenting events and courses to make some space for yourself and to take time to invest in your family. Our courses and events aim to support, encourage and equip you to 'keep going' as a parent, even when things are tough.

Check out our parenting courses - starting soon - and sign up. We would love to see you. <https://fmy.org.uk/york/>

For an overview of our upcoming Feb/March 2023 courses, click [here](#)

Is your child.....Anxious?

Stressed? Feeling down?

Lacking confidence?

Knowing how to support the emotional and mental wellbeing of our children and young people is one of the biggest challenges parents & carers face today. Join us for a single session parenting event to share, discuss and learn strategies to equip our children and to support them in building their emotional well being and resilience.

New FREE Event

'A Mind Of Their Own' Sat 11th March

**9.30am - 12 noon @ The
Belfrey Hall, 52a Stonegate,
YO1 8AS**

For flyer click [here](#)

Tuesday evenings

7.30 - 9.30pm (5 weeks) starting **28th February** at St Andrew's Church, Huntington Rd, York January at St Lawrence's CE School, 99 Heslington Rd, York YO32 9PX

For flyer click [here](#)

Thursday mornings

9.30 - 11.30am (4 weeks) starting 2nd March
at Cornerstone, Millfield Lane, York YO10 3AP

For flyer click [here](#)

Thursday evenings (online)

7.30 - 9.15pm via Zoom starting 2nd March

For flyer click [here](#)

Sign me up

To book a place or for further information please contact:

Jen Wootten Tel: 07393 147259

Email: jenwootten@fmy.org.uk

Or you can find more information about our courses on our website <https://fmy.org.uk/york/>

We also offer Reconnect, a 5 session couple to couple mentoring service, focusing on relationship skills to help you strengthen your couple relationship. For details contact Emma at emmamarshall@fmy.org.uk

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