

10TH  
JANUARY  
2024



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear families,

Welcome Back to the Spring Term at Dringhouses Primary School!

We hope you had a wonderful and restful Christmas break and are ready for the exciting term ahead. It's been a fantastic start to the new year here at Dringhouses and we've already kicked off the term with energy and enthusiasm!

On Monday, our staff, along with colleagues from all the maintained schools in the city, gathered at Westfield Primary School for a powerful training day focused on the theme 'Diversity is our Strength.' This session explored the city's vision for inclusive education, and we left feeling inspired by the ideas shared and the collective commitment to creating a welcoming, diverse learning environment for every child.

In school this week, we've also seen our students embark on new and exciting learning journeys. Our EYs children are finding out 'What's in our Sky'. Our KSI pupils are diving into their 'Digging for Dinosaurs' project, while LKS2 are exploring the wilds of 'The Jungle Run.' UKS2 students have begun their thrilling exploration of 'The Vikings.' It's been a brilliant start, and we're looking forward to all the discoveries and learning that lie ahead.

Here's to another fantastic term at Dringhouses Primary School!

Miss Swiers and Mr Laycock

## DATES FOR THE HALF TERM

- 14th January FODS meeting (7.15pm)
- 23rd January Class 1 and 2 outdoor school
- 29th January Year 5/6 Yorvik visit
- 3rd February Year 6 SATs information meeting (5pm)
- 4th February EYFS Stay and Play (2.15pm)
- 12th February Year 1/2 Dinostar workshops
- 13th February Neurodiverse and Wellbeing drop in (8.30am)
- 13th February Class 1 and 2 outdoor school
- 13th February EYFS and Year 1/2 disco (4pm)

## ATTENDANCE AT DRINGHOUSES

Please see below our attendance for each year group this week. Please remember that each missed session has an impact on your child's educational journey. Please see the attendance for this week below.  
Reception: 99% Year 1: 99% Year 2: 94% Year 3: 99% Year 4: 92% Year 5: 98% Year 6: 94%

The class with the highest attendance this week was Class 8. Well done to them for an incredible 100% attendance. 'Attendi Pengi', our giant (very cute!) penguin will be spending the week with them!



# LAUNCH DAYS

Our launch days this week were a fantastic way to ignite the children's curiosity and creativity as they began their new learning projects.

In KS1, the 'Digging for Dinosaurs' launch day saw the children transform into budding archaeologists, excavating dinosaur bones, teeth, and skulls! Each classroom was buzzing with excitement as the young paleontologists uncovered fossils and imagined life in the past. LKS2 embarked on an Ancient Maya-themed launch day, where they enjoyed food tasting, created vibrant class frescoes, and cracked codes using the Mayan numeral system—an engaging way to bring history to life. Meanwhile, UKS2 students got hands-on with Viking history, designing interactive timetables, creating their own Viking names, and learning about the true appearance of Vikings.

These launch days are always a great way to spark the children's imaginations and set the stage for a term of exciting discoveries and learning!



# YORK RESIDENTS' FESTIVAL RETURNS!

York Residents' Festival returns on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 January 2025, offering York residents free entry to the city's top attractions, exclusive offers and unique experiences across the city.

Organised by Make It York, this much-loved event is a celebration of everything York has to offer, giving residents the chance to explore the city's attractions, enjoy fantastic food and support local businesses.

New this year, you can pre-book tickets online for a variety of attractions, allowing you to secure your spots ahead of the festival weekend. This includes complimentary tours of the Abbey Church at Ampleforth Abbey, where free guided tours led by a monk will reveal the fascinating architecture of this Sir Giles Gilbert Scott-designed church, and York Theatre Royal offering free behind-the-scenes tours to this unique venue. For thrill-seekers, the York Dungeon is offering 150 free tickets across the weekend at selected times, giving residents the chance to experience its exciting and spine-chilling tour.



Pre-booking opens at 12pm on Friday 10 January. So, mark your calendar, start planning your weekend and be ready to book early for venues with limited spaces!

With countless exclusive deals and offers, there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy an unforgettable weekend in York.

# MUSIC UPDATES

Choir will begin next Friday (17th). If your child already comes to Choir, no need to do anything. If your child would like to join Choir (or is leaving) please email Mrs Clarke to let her know. Choir takes place every Friday in the Hall and finishes at 4.00pm. It is open to everybody and is free.

Orchestra: Orchestra will run on Tuesdays this term, beginning on Tuesday 21st January. It is open to anyone who learns an instrument with one of our visiting teachers that involves reading music (piano, acoustic guitar, violin, viola, flute, cello, clarinet, cornet, trumpet, sax,) who has been learning for at least two terms. It is also open to anyone in Y4/5/6 who would like to play their recorder. Orchestra takes place after school in the music room and finishes at 4.15pm. It is free.

If your child would like to be in the orchestra this year, or if you would like more info, please email Mrs Clarke, letting her know what instrument they play, if they have taken any grades (don't worry if they haven't!) and how they will be getting home.



**FODS meeting next week:** On Tuesday 14th January at 7:15pm we'll be meeting at school. Please join us to help decide how to spend the money we've raised, and to come up with ideas for more social and/or fundraising ideas. At 8:30pm we'll be heading to the Fox and Roman. Come if you can!

**Got ideas but can't come to the meeting?** We'd still love your input - please email [friends@dringhouses.co.uk](mailto:friends@dringhouses.co.uk) or see Rachel Corry or Rachel Stevens on the playground before/after school.

**Christmas Fair. What did you think?** We would love your feedback about the Christmas Fair so that we can make next year's even better. Please take a couple of minutes to fill out the Google Form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfr7JLix8lxmO4XVY-gHVMXXNz9vz6jx8twh3dO3WWOHOObawQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&usp=mail\\_form\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfr7JLix8lxmO4XVY-gHVMXXNz9vz6jx8twh3dO3WWOHOObawQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&usp=mail_form_link)

**Nativity costumes:** Please drop any unwanted nativity costumes at the school office. Thank you!