

7TH MARCH
2025



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear families,

What a fantastic week it has been at Dringhouses Primary School! We've truly brought the curriculum to life with a series of exciting, memorable experiences for our students. Our Key Stage 1 children had an amazing adventure at Flamingo Land, exploring animals and nature in an unforgettable way. Meanwhile, our Lower Key Stage 2 pupils visited Tropical World, immersing themselves in the wonders of exotic plants and creatures. Upper Key Stage 2 enjoyed an engaging and interactive Vikings Workshop from History to Life, bringing history right to our classroom.

A curriculum that comes to life is one that sparks joy and creates lasting memories. A huge thank you to our staff for organising these incredible trips and events, and to our families for supporting and making these experiences possible. Thursday also brought us a wonderful celebration of World Book Day! Our children had a brilliant time participating in book-themed activities, swapping classes to share their favourite stories with one another and teachers. It was truly heartwarming to see the joy that books can bring.

As Dr. Seuss famously said, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." We hope this week has sparked curiosity and excitement in our young readers.

Wishing all our families a lovely and restful weekend!
Miss Swiers

DATES FOR THE HALF TERM

10th March: UKS2 Art Gallery Parents Invited (2.45pm)

11th March: Book Fair

12th – 14th March: Year 5 PGL trip

20th March: KS2 Spring Concert (1.30pm–3.30pm)

21st March: Red Nose Day non uniform day

28th March: Bake sale after school

31st March: Easter egg competition

1st April: Parents evening (3.30pm–6.30pm)

2nd April: Easter service at st Edward's Church

3rd April: Parents evening (3.30pm–6.30pm)

4th April: Rocksteady Concert (10am)

4th April: End of Term

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: 93.5% Year 1: 98% Year 2: 99% Year 3: 95.5% Year 4: 98% Year 5: 98% Year 6: 97%

The classes with the highest attendance this week were Class 3. Well done for an excellent 100% attendance. 'Attendi Pengi', our giant (very cute!) penguin will be spending the week with them.



KSI TRIP TO FLAMINGO LAND

KSI had a fantastic day at Flamingo Land. We had a workshop where we learnt all about African animals including lions, elephants and hippos. They showed us clues about each animal and we had to use our knowledge to guess which one they were talking about. We even got to hold a Giant African Snail - it was very goey and sticky! We had lots of time to explore the zoo and to learn about how different animals live. The lions showed us their spectacular roar and the hippos hid from us under the water. All of the children were brilliantly behaved and we had a wonderful time.



LKS2 TRIP TO TROPICAL WORLD

LKS2 had an excellent time at tropical world this week. We really enjoyed exploring the different areas and seeing the different animals and their habitats. We were very fortunate that the sun was shining so all three classes got to enjoy Roundhay Park as well as take part in a workshop about the rainforest. We were very proud of the fantastic knowledge the children were able to show off and apply during our time in Leeds. Thank you to all the volunteers who accomplished us and the contributions from families that allow us to have these enriching experiences.



TESCO STRONGER STARTS

Dringhouses Primary School has been selected for "Tesco Stronger Starts". This is the programme where Tesco customers vote for local community projects using the blue tokens, and this spring that includes us! We are raising money for our Early Years Playground Development. A dedicated outdoor space to provide and support learning opportunities for our pupils, and other service users. Voting will commence in stores from the first week in April 2025 until the end of June 2025.

The project with the highest number of votes across the region will receive £1,500, the second placed project £1,000, and the third placed project £500. So please vote if you shop in Tesco!

You can vote in the following Tesco stores: Acomb Wood (YO24 3XN) Tadcaster Road (YO24 1LW) Low Ousegate (YO1 9QX) and Piccadilly (YO1 9TU). To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token.

Thank you for your support and please remember to pick up a blue token and vote if you're in Tesco.

MAINTAINED SCHOOLS COLLABORATION

As we are over halfway through Mr Laycock's time supporting Dringhouses Primary School, we thought it would be a good point to share some of the benefits so far.

We have been able to share many resources between schools, from educational resources to Santa hats for Christmas dinner! Some staff have had the opportunity to work together and share good practice across both schools and training resources too. We have also benefited from support with writing assessment before Local Authority moderation. As a city, we are already working closely together, with meetings for subject leaders each term. Both Wigginton and Dringhouses have been involved in hosting these. Governors for both schools are also meeting termly to review progress.

As well as this, you may have seen in York Press the article about the maintained schools training day 'Diversity is Our Strength' in January. Staff from both schools attended so we can all benefit from the sessions. Both schools are also developing our lunchtime play and able to share ideas for playtimes, resources and lunchtime organisation.

We are sure there will continue to be opportunities for collaboration with further shared training, resources and best practice. Being maintained schools gives us the liberty to do this and ensure providing the best possible educational experience for all our pupils.

Mr Laycock wanted to add that, personally, he feels very lucky to be able to work in two brilliant schools. There is much he has been able to bring to Dringhouses to contribute to its continuing success but also lots of great things he has been able to take back to Wigginton too. We are sure there will be much more during his time at Dringhouses and beyond this now that there is a strong bond between the two schools and the Local authority maintained schools as a whole.



FODS

Thank you to everybody who came to the FODS meeting on Wednesday, it was great to see so many of you! We discussed previous and upcoming events and agreed to fund some new SEN equipment. We also opened a discussion about setting up a 'pay-it-forwards' scheme, so that as a school community we can help to make sure no child has to miss out for financial reasons.

If you'd like to volunteer for any forthcoming events or would like to join our volunteer WhatsApp group then please do let us know at friends@dringhouses.co.uk

Bake Sale - Friday 28th March

Get ready with your Easter bakes and come and join us for some after school treats. Homemade and shop bought cakes all very welcome.

Easter Egg Competition - Monday 31st March

It's back! Get your thinking caps on and join in the egg decorating competition this year. Donations of £1 are welcome for any entries and there will be Easter Egg prizes on offer for each year group as well as the family group category.

More information will be coming out via email soon!

WHATSAPP

In recent weeks, we have been addressing a number of concerns related to children using WhatsApp inappropriately. Unfortunately, some of our pupils have been experiencing issues with unkind behaviour and communication through the app, which is starting to impact their well-being and their school life. As you may be aware, WhatsApp has a minimum age restriction of 13, and we strongly advise parents to be mindful of this when considering allowing their child to use the app. While technology can offer many benefits, unrestricted access to messaging platforms like WhatsApp can have a negative effect on children's mental health, leading to anxiety, misunderstandings, and social tension that often spills over into the school environment. We are encouraging parents to monitor their child's online activity closely and to ensure that they understand the importance of respectful communication, both online and offline. It's essential we all work together to safeguard our children and help them navigate the digital world responsibly.

SEND SLEEP WORKSHOPS

KIDS are offering workshops for parents/carers of SEND children seeking support and tools to manage sleep challenges as a family.

The workshops will be delivered by 2 highly experienced trained sleep practitioners who can offer parents/carers guidance and strategies to address their child's sleep issues. We recognise that parents often feel overwhelmed, exhausted and not sure what to try next. We provide a non-judgmental service where we recognise the struggles parents and carers face when dealing with children's sleep problems.

Topics covered in this workshop will include: Circadian rhythms and sleep patterns, melatonin and cortisol, sleep associations, environmental factors, sensory needs, diet and strategies to support families.

Workshops are now live on Eventbrite:

IN PERSON WORKSHOP

Friday 28th March

9.30-11.30

Venue: New Earswick Folk Hall, Hawthorn Terrace, New Earswick, York, YO32 4AQ

20 tickets available, 1 ticket per booking

Eventbrite link to make a booking: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1265070773739?aff=oddtcreator>



ONLINE WORKSHOP

Wednesday 30th April

6.30-8.30pm

Online via Teams

25 tickets available, 1 ticket per booking

Eventbrite link to make a booking: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1265166871169?aff=oddtcreator>

HUMBER AND NORTH YORKSHIRE HEALTH AND CARE SHARED PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE

I would like to draw your attention to the Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care shared partnership website.

Here you can find a series of videos to help parents, carers, teachers, and others who support children with sensory processing differences. You'll also find helpful advice sheets and links to other support and information.

<https://www.hnyhealthiertogether.nhs.uk/parents-carers/your-childs-development/lets-make-sense-together>

Many Thanks

Sarah Murray
SENCo