

5TH DECEMBER
2025



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

This week has been full of festive cheer across the school. Our Early Years children delighted us with their wonderful Nativity performances, showcasing confident singing, clear speaking, and plenty of heart-warming moments. It was fantastic to see how much effort the children and staff had put into preparing the shows, and we were so pleased to welcome so many families who came along to support them.

On Wednesday, the whole school enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner, which brought everyone together for a lovely celebratory meal. A huge thank-you goes to our fantastic kitchen staff, who worked incredibly hard to prepare such a special lunch for us all, it was delicious!

We also said goodbye to Mrs Hopkins as she began her maternity leave, and we wish her every happiness for the exciting weeks ahead. We are thrilled that Miss Kilmartin will be covering Mrs Hopkins's teaching commitments from next week.

Best wishes,
Mrs Scott-South

DATES FOR THE HALF TERM

- 9th December- St Leonard's Hospice Reindeer Rush (10:45am)
- 9th December- KS2 Christingle (6:00-7:00pm)
- 11th December - KS1 and EYFS- The Enormous Christmas Pudding
Show by StoryCraft Theatre (1.30-2.30pm)
- 12th December - Christmas fair
- 12th December - Christmas jumper day
- 15th December- EYFS Outdoor School (am)
- 16th December- KS1 Christmas Play dress rehearsal
- 16th December - KS2 When Robins Appear Performance by Next
Door But One Theatre (1.30-2.30pm)
- 17th December - Christmas Service at St Edward's Church (9am)
- 17th December- KS1 Christmas play (2:15pm)
- 18th December- KS1 Christmas play (9:30am)
- 18th December - Winning house christmas film viewing
- 19th December - FODS end of term treat
- 19th December - End of term



PHASE NEWS: LKS2

LKS2 have been continuing to enjoy our Ancient Egyptian topic. We've had exciting workshops from Catherine at History to Life where we got to be hands on with artifacts and play some traditional games. Our map reading skills have been put to the test in orienteering, the children have loved the opportunity to develop their skills! In DT we have been working on our own mechanical vehicles.



This week LKS2 got the opportunity to take part in a Cultural Capital event, organised by students at the University of York. Children discovered art in Malaysia and celebrations in Poland, bringing the culture of the world here to Dring!



SPOTLIGHT ON... COMPUTING AT DRINGHOUSES

Computing is an important subject for children today as it helps them make sense of the digital world they are growing up in and gives them the problem-solving skills they need for the future. At Dringhouses, we build these skills gradually across the school. In Early Years and Key Stage 1 children start with the basics of digital literacy and simple coding, using tools like Bee-Bots to practise giving clear instructions and exploring how technology responds. Children have regular access to iPads and use programs like PurpleMash not only in computing lessons but also across the wider curriculum. Across the school we also make use of Chromebooks in computing sessions and for supporting core skills such as times tables and Spelling Shed. As pupils move into Key Stage 2, they begin tackling more complex coding challenges and exploring physical computing through our new micro:bits, which they have enjoyed experimenting with. Online safety, digital relationships and responsible use of technology are key elements of computing lessons throughout the school and are also linked to our PSHE curriculum. Exploring these topics helps children understand how to stay safe, be respectful and feel confident when using technology. We also have regular assemblies on online safety, new technologies and the role computing can play in careers in STEM and beyond.

GREAT FIRE OF LONDON DAY

KS1 had a fantastic day last week during our Great Fire of London Day. We were especially excited to welcome our local fire service and meet real firefighters in person. They even helped us recreate our very own Pudding Lane—and what a sight it was! The whole school gathered to watch as the model was set alight, and the atmosphere was filled with excitement.

Afterwards, one of the firefighters gave a fascinating talk, and we learnt all about the important work they do in our community. We also spent time creating some wonderful artwork inspired by the Great Fire of London. It was a truly enjoyable and memorable day for everyone involved!





FRIENDS OF DRINGHOUSES PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS FAIR

FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER

3.30PM-5PM

JOIN US FOR GAMES,
CRAFTS, REFRESHMENTS
AND LOTS OF FESTIVE FUN!

RCN1095280



FODS CHRISTMAS FAIR – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Please could you spare an hour or two next Friday (12th Dec) to run a stall at the fair? We appreciate it's a really busy time of year and there are lots of calls on your time, but we rely on other parents and teachers to help make the school fairs happen.

Could you buddy up with a friend and offer to look after their kids at the fair while they run a stall or vice versa)?

Money raised at the fair will benefit the children at Dringhouses – last year we funded support for the Year 6 musical, African drums for music lessons, lots of craft items for lunch club, some Family Matters courses for all families to attend and the hiring of chromebooks for use across the whole school.

What's more, the Christmas Fair is a huge highlight of the term for the kids – let's spread some Christmas joy

Please could you help? If so, please email friends@dringhouses.co.uk or text Rachel (07756 702071).



CHRISTMAS DINNER

Many thanks to our wonderful kitchen and lunchtime staff for this years delicious christmas dinner. Everyone had a lovely time listening to christmas music, wearing christmas hats and enjoying wonderful food.



FODS TODDLER PARTY – 6TH DECEMBER

Please don't forget to book your place THIS Saturday (6th December) to join the Rhythm Time fun before Christmas. It is on from 1:30–3:30pm. It is just donations, so anything you can spare. To book please contact Marianne on 07867 778685



REINDEER RUSH REMINDER



On Tuesday 9th December the children at Dringhouses Primary School are taking part in a fun sponsored Reindeer Rush to raise funds for St Leonard's Hospice.

St Leonard's Hospice provides care and support for people with life limiting illnesses and their families when they need it most, and they've been doing it for 40 years. They provide care at our Hospice, in patients' homes, and in our community.

St Leonard's provide care for free, but it's not free to provide. It costs £8.3 million a year, and just a quarter of that comes from the government. They rely on the generosity of the community for the rest. Your donation means St Leonard's can be here to help more people in York and surrounding areas when they need us most.

We can't wait to see all the fun the children get up to! All the funds Dringhouses Primary raise are greatly appreciated and will help St Leonard's to continue to provide expert care and support.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/dringhousesreindeerrush>



MESSAGES FROM FODS

Secret Shopping

Thank you all for supporting the secret shopping event earlier this week, whether it was on the day, in the run up or buying presents. We have finalised the totals from the event, and raised a whopping £1242.11!! Thank you all so much. This money will go back towards helping activities across school. The children had lots of fun picking presents and wrapping them (with help). It is always an amazing day to support as it really helps to start the kick off to Christmas at school.



Stikins

Thank you for using the Stikins code for buying your name labels for school uniforms. This year we have raised £131.31 from just parents adding in the code when purchasing them. This is a really easy way to support school as it costs us nothing and the money raised can go straight to supporting other activities within school. If you have forgotten the code and need to buy some more labels it is 6152.

Next FODS meeting

Our next meeting is taking place at school on Wednesday 14th January at 7:30pm. This will be an EGM to update our constitution, please do come along if you can. It is also a great way to find out what exciting things FODS has got planned in the coming months and hear more about where the money raised goes to in school. As usual we will be heading to the Fox and Roman pub for those who can afterwards.

POPPY APPEAL



Many thanks for your support with this years Poppy appeal. Dringhouses School raised £143.66 . Particular thanks to our wonderful student volunteers who visited all the classes throughout the week.

INCLUSIVE CAROL CONCERT

YIKs (York Inspirational Kids) 3rd Inclusive Carol Concert takes place on Sunday 7 December 2025 at 1.45pm and York Minster.

There will be lots of performances from children and young people who are taking part and it would be wonderful if you could join us. Tickets are FREE but please pre-book them.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/yorkinspirationalkidsic/1846504>

It promises to be a great service.



TOY APPEAL

Christmas Toy Appeal



Your generous donations last Christmas helped us bring smiles to children across the city and this year we want to help as many as we can!

We're Looking For:

- * New and Unused Toys
- * Books & Crafts
- * Games and Puzzles

FREE COLLECTION ACROSS YORK

WhatsApp: 01904 900131

Trilogy Toys (which is run by Dringhouses parents Stu and Kel) have teamed up with Refugee Action York (RAY) to spread a little Christmas joy to children in our community who are finding things tough. Do you have pre-loved children's books and toys that are in good condition and could be given as a gift to children who would otherwise have little this Christmas? If so, please bring them to school on **Friday 12th December** along with your Christmas fair donations. Please see www.trilogytoys.co.uk/pages/faq for more details of what can be donated.

Do you know of any local families who may be struggling this year? In addition to working with RAY, Trilogy Toys also support individual families who are in need by giving donations of essential items, toys, books, games and Christmas gifts. If you know anyone who could use a bit of extra help (or if that's you), please email hello@trilogytoys.co.uk in confidence.