

19TH DECEMBER
2025



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

As we come to the end of a busy and joyful term, I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful sense of community that has been so evident over the past two weeks. Our Reindeer Rush charity run was a huge success, raising valuable funds for St Leonard's Hospice while bringing lots of festive fun and enthusiasm. The Christmas fair was so much fun, and a wonderful array of activities were enjoyed by all. Many thanks to FODS and all the volunteers involved in the monumental effort to make that happen. Families were delighted by the Early Years and Key Stage 1 Nativity performances, which showcased the children's confidence and creativity, and all pupils were able to experience the magic of live theatre through visits from professional theatre companies. The Key Stage 2 Christingle was a truly magical, candlelit moment of reflection, and our Christmas service in church provided a fitting and peaceful end to the term. We have experienced such high quality singing, fantastic performances, incredible solos and a sense of joy and proud as children have come together to create these lasting memories.

The time has come for us to say thank you and goodbye to Mrs Banks who will be skipping off into the retirement sunshine this holiday! Mrs Banks has worked at Dringhouses for 23 years and she is an extremely valued member of our school community. Her kindness, care and support for all of our children shines through and we will miss her dearly. We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Wade and Mrs Wragg. Mrs Wade has been a valued member of our teaching team and we want to thank her for all of the hard work, dedication, fun and care she has brought to our school. Mrs Wragg has played an extremely important role in our teaching assistant team and her work in EYFS has been invaluable. We wish them both the very best as they embark on new career opportunities.

Finally thank you to all of the children, staff and families for making this term such a positive and successful one. Thank you for all of your continued support and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. I hope it is fun, restful and germ free! Merry Christmas everyone!

Best wishes,
Mrs Scott-South

FAMILY MATTERS YORK

We have a partnership with Family Matters York, and they would like to run a course of free sessions to help families learn more about anger and its impact on our relationships.

We know how busy family life can be and would really value your input on what days and times would work best for you. We are aiming for the course to take place during the Spring 2 term (after the February half term and running up to Easter).

Please complete the Google form with your preferences:

<https://forms.gle/wJCSgF5tt3Th8QWj6>

Thank you for your support.

Handling Anger in the Family

Tackling subjects like:
anger triggers, stress and anger,
anger responses, warning signs,
calming strategies, better
communication.

ALL families experience anger and conflict.
It's normal!
But how often do we talk about it?

Join our **FREE 5 session course** to find out more about anger and its impact on our family relationships.
Learn simple strategies to manage strong emotions and communicate better.

Take 'Time Out' to help your family thrive and grow.
Know that you are not alone!

Join us to learn more about the emotion of anger.

DATES FOR NEXT HALF TERM

5th January – Staff training (inset day)
6th January – School reopens
8th & 9th January – KS1 Drama workshops (at school)
12th-15th January – Mock SATs week (for internal calendars only)
14th January – FODS meeting
19th January – EYFS Outdoor school (am)
29th Jan – LKS2 Multi skills session (class 6 & 7)
2nd February – Yr6 SATs info evening 5–5.30pm
5th February – LKS2 Multi skills session (class 8)
10th February – Safer internet day
13th February – KS1 Parents event (2.20–3pm)
13th February – FODS bake sale
13th February – Winning house extra afternoon play
13th February – End of half term



BOOK FAIR

Santa has come to Dringhouses early! Following the book fair earlier this half term, we earned a large amount of commission to spend on new books for our school library, and they have arrived this week. Santa's magical library elves (aka Mrs Floyd and Mrs Walker) are busy getting them ready to go on the shelves in the new year, ready for the children to enjoy. Thank you for your overwhelming support of the book fair and for generating so much commission, allowing us to purchase so many fantastic new books!



REQUEST FOR GAMES

If you have any unwanted board games, lego, magnets, play equipment etc. it would be gratefully received by the school. Thank you for your support.



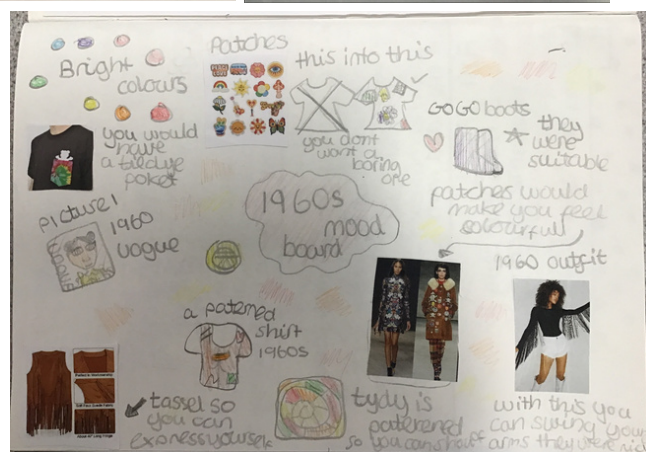
SPOTLIGHT ON... ART AT DRINGHOUSES

The art curriculum has been a plethora of colour, mark-making and creativity this term. From naming and using primary colours in Early Years to learning about harmonious colours in UKS2 the children across the Key Stages have enjoyed exploring and developing their sense of colour. KS1 explored mark making, which is the way in which an artist produces different marks, lines, dots and textures – they then created their own wonderful observational drawings of the Mansion House in York and also 17th century London cityscapes against vivid backgrounds.

Lower Key Stage 2 channelled their inner ancient Egyptian craftsperson and sculpted some wonderful death masks from papier-mâché. You may remember a time in your childhood when you used papier-mâché to create a structure. Its literal meaning, from the French, is 'chewed paper!' It's an easy way for children to experience creating and manipulating a three-dimensional material which makes them think of the artwork 'in the round' and from different perspectives rather than just a flat image. The meaning associated with colours continues to be significant today as it was thousands of years ago and Years Three and Four learnt that gold and blue were important to the Ancient Egyptians hence their colour choice when painting their masks.

UKS2 also explored a 3D element in their recent project on the 1960's. They studied the pop artist Andy Warhol and compared his Marilyn diptych to the famous medieval Wilton diptych. A diptych is artwork on two panels which are meant to be displayed side by side. As you can see, art lessons in Dring allow time for experimentation, discussion, historical learning and context, skills progression, collaboration and most importantly self expression.

As the saying goes 'A picture paints a thousand words.' I think the children's artwork speaks for itself.



PHASE NEWS: UKS2

This half term has been another busy but joyful one in UKS2, filled with creativity, exploration, and memorable experiences. We have continued our journey through the 1960s through our class text *A Wrinkle in Time*, which has sparked thoughtful discussions about society, technology, and change. In English, the children have produced a range of impressive writing including newspaper articles, first-person narratives, and persuasive pieces exploring the impact of modern technology on children today.

Design and Technology has been a real highlight this half term. The children designed and created their own tie-dye T-shirts before using sewing skills to add embellishments. To celebrate their hard work, we held a fabulous fashion show complete with a catwalk and Beatles music – a wonderful way to showcase their creativity and confidence.

In Science, pupils have been investigating light and learning how it travels, using practical experiments to deepen their understanding. We also took part in Anti-Bullying Week, where the children learnt about healthy and unhealthy relationships, peer pressure, and how to support one another.

Year 6 pupils enjoyed an action-packed residential trip to Bewerley Park, where they challenged themselves through activities such as mountain biking, canoeing, high ropes, and much more. Meanwhile, our Year 5 children took part in the Roar 25 challenge with York Lions, designing innovative ideas to change the world. They built models to bring their ideas to life, with the winning project, Relievra, impressing judges with a device designed to support people with arthritis.

It has been a wonderfully full half term and the children should be extremely proud of all they have achieved.



REINDEER RUSH

Last week we took part in a sponsored Reindeer Rush to raise funds for St Leonard's Hospice. We raised £1190.37 (and £256 in gift aid) well done to all our children, volunteers and staff, and thank you families for your support!



NEWS FROM FODS

Lots of events have taken place this month and we want to start with a MASSIVE THANK YOU! Thank you for attending, supporting and contributing to all the wonderful Christmas events, we are not able to support anywhere near as much activities as we have done without all of your support. Not only are they a great way of raising money to support our school, but they are a great way to get to know other parents and join in with the wonderful Dringhouses community. With this in mind, please see an update on all the amazing things that have taken place this month through FODS.



Christmas fair

It was lovely to see so many people join the Christmas Fair last Friday. The whole school felt buzzing with excitement (and sugar). Thank you all for attending and volunteering. The fair is a lovely way of bringing the community together and sharing in some fun. The fair also raised an amazing £1292.62! All these profits go directly back into school to support all the fun activities the children enjoy throughout the year.

Toddler Christmas party

Thank you to everyone who came to the toddler Christmas party. Lots of fun and music was had and it was a lovely way to celebrate with our younger members of the community. It also helped us raise more funds for FODS, with a total of £147.57 which will go directly back to supporting activities throughout school.

Donation from whisky group

Thank you to Marianne and family who did a raffle with their whisky group and raised a generous donation for FODS of £623!

Secret Shopping

The total raised from this lovely Christmas event was an incredible £1242.11!! This is an amazing amount of money for an event that is focused on spreading the Christmas spirit across school. Thank you to everyone who bought presents, we hope some of them are still surprises to open on Christmas day.

Christmas plays refreshments

Thank you to everyone who helped provide some welcoming drinks and snacks at our wonderful Christmas plays. Not only are the plays a lovely way of showcasing the wonderful talents of our children in EYFS and KS1, but the donations received also support more activities within school. The total raised for these came to £104.47, but this is without the card payments so it will go up.

Next FODS meeting

Our next meeting is taking place at school on Wednesday 14th January at 7:30pm. This is a slightly special meeting as we are going to review and ratify our new constitution. To do this we need a specific number of people to attend and vote. This makes it especially important that as many of our parents can join us as possible. As a result if you are willing to attend, but can not make the meeting in person please let us know (email friends@dringhouses.co.uk) and we will arrange some way of doing a hybrid meeting where people can join us online from home.

Following this important section of the meeting we will then go on to our usual FODS business, which includes reviewing requests for funding, enabling us to spend some of the amazing funds we have raised this month. As usual we will be heading to the Fox and Roman pub for those who can afterwards. It's a great way to meet other parents and carers at school.



MESSAGE FROM TRINITY TOYS

🙌 THANK YOU!

To each and everyone of you that donated to our Helping Hands Christmas Appeal, we are truly grateful and quite frankly, blown away by the support we have had this year from our local community!

We have made our final delivery today and that brings our tally up to 290 children we've helped ensure get a Christmas gift this year both directly and through our Charity Partners.

Special shout out to FODS who helped spread the word and to the school who had to deal with the piles of gifts!

? SO, WHAT'S NEXT?

We will continue to run our Helping Hand Project throughout the year (a good deed is not just for Christmas) so if you, or you know someone that could do with a little help whether it be a new baby, family crisis, birthday gift etc, please do contact us. We want to help!

In order to help, we do need to keep the business side running too!



👉 Without the business income, there will be no project!

We run this business from home and the money we make goes towards feeding our own children and not lining the CEO's/Boardroom pockets! Every single sale or Toy Exchange member helps us, so we can help others along the way!

So, after the wrapping paper has been cleared, the Christmas dishes put away and you finally sit down to 'assess' Christmas, we would love it if you would bear us in mind to rehome duplicate or unwanted gifts, unwanted toys, books, games, consoles etc. I know we can all take to social media to sell these on ourselves, but why not take the hassle out of it and let us do it all for you? We reach a national audience!

We will collect, appraise, estimate, photograph, list, pack & send your items and then payout in credit to spend on our website or cash in the bank! Easy!

Or, if you're looking for a good quality item but don't want to pay the RRP, check out our online shop. I mean, who needs a box anyway? Plus, FREE DELIVERY THROUGHOUT YORK!

And just remember... using us to buy or sell - helps your pocket, the environment, a small, local, family business and 100's of children in need across the city!

❤️ We wish you and all your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Stu & Kel – Trilogy Toys