

6TH FEBRUARY
2026



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

The past two weeks have been incredibly productive across the school, and it has been a real pleasure to see our children so engaged in their learning. Classrooms have been full of focus, curiosity and enthusiasm, with pupils showing great resilience and pride in their work. Alongside this, staff have been working hard to enrich the curriculum and support every child to do their very best. Thank you to our pupils for their positive attitudes and to our staff and families for their continued support—it truly makes a difference and helps our school community thrive.

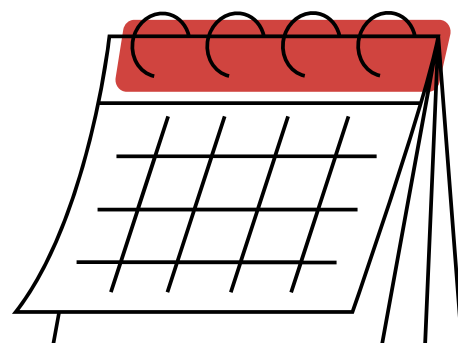
This week, a letter was shared explaining how we will be celebrating World Book Day this year. As 2026 is The Year of Reading, with the slogan “To Go All In,” we will be marking World Book Day with a whole week of activities. These include children bringing their favourite book into school to share with their class, as well as families joining us for a Reading Café on Wednesday 4th March from 2pm.

World Book Day has now announced which £1 books will be available this year, and each child will receive their voucher the following week when Derek visits with the book fair on Tuesday 10th March. Exciting times ahead!

Best wishes
Mrs Scott-South

DDATES FOR THE HALF TERM

- 10th February – Safer internet day
- 11th February – KS1 Art day (please wear clothes that can get messy)
- 13th February – KS1 Parents event (2.20–3pm)
- 13th February – FODS bake sale & raffle
- 13th February – Winning house extra afternoon play
- 13th February – End of half term



PHASE NEWS: LKS2

This half term has been a busy and exciting one for our Lower Key Stage 2 pupils. We made the most of our local area during our river walk, including the opportunity to walk over the bridges linked to our school houses – which helped bring our geography learning to life! We have also thoroughly enjoyed sessions led by the Sports Leader from Milthorpe School, developing our teamwork skills and cooperation.



In the classroom, pupils have been busy creating colourful mosaics as part of their art work and writing vivid setting descriptions inspired by the Amazon rainforest. In science, we have been carrying out an investigation that required us to make observations over time. Next week we will be comparing how different growing conditions have affected the germination of our cress seeds. It has been a pleasure to see the children so engaged and enthusiastic across the curriculum this half term and we look forward to our last week of learning before the half term.

NEW ADVICE ON "LAYERING UP" PARENTAL CONTROLS

internet
matters.org

Many families use at least one parental control for our tech devices and platforms. Online Safety experts **Internet Matters** recommend that parents 'layer up' your child's online safety settings.

By using multiple layers of parental controls, like on broadband, mobile phones and different apps and platforms, you have give your child extra protection when they're online – whether that's at home or out on their mobile phones.

Internet Matters have updated their parental controls advice hub with new explainer videos and FAQs, to help parents and carers make the most of parental controls.

Visit Internet Matters Parental Controls Hub: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

SPOTLIGHT ON... PHONICS AT DRINGHOUSES

You'll know that at Dringhouses, we are very keen readers and this all starts with how we learn to read in our EYFS and KS1. We use the FFT's 'Success For All' Phonics scheme which helps us to deliver high quality sessions that have been designed to support and nurture a love of reading and writing.

All of our children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have a daily phonics session. These sessions follow a daily structure which means children can focus on the content of the lesson, rather than how it is being taught. We 'Review, Learn, Practise and Apply' in every session, ensuring that children can consolidate what they have learned as they go. We build our skills in lessons through a variety of activities - beginning with the Alphabet Chant movement song, writing in the air, using fingers on backs, whiteboards and whiteboard pens and, of course, pencils and paper. We practise segmenting (breaking a word into its smallest units of sound) and blending (putting the sounds together when reading), as well as being able to instantly recognise our High frequency and Red words. We use our phonics skills to write both familiar and unfamiliar words, building them into sentences.

Our phonics sessions are supported by reading lessons too. We follow a scope and sequence that links an FFT book to the sound/s that have been taught in our classes. In these sessions, we may read individually, as a whole class or with our learning partners. We have the opportunity to build our reading skills and confidence by becoming familiar with the text over a few days as we work on our recall skills and check our understanding of what we have read. At Dringhouses, we further support this by sending home our 'book banded' books; these too match the sounds which children have been taught and are decodable to their phonic knowledge.

NEWS FROM FODS

Valentines bake sale

We are already nearing the end of half term which means it is nearly bake sale time. We will be holding the next 'Valentines' bake sale on Friday 13 February straight after school in the playground. We will be collecting any donations of cakes/bakes and any other sweet treats (homemade or otherwise) at drop off in the morning. Any donations are greatly appreciated, as is coming to purchase some tasty treats to help start the school holidays.



Valentines raffle

Alongside our bake sale we will be holding a mini raffle this half term. You can purchase tickets on parent pay, as well as at the bake sale on Friday 13 February. There have been some amazing prizes donated from local businesses as well as families from school. Prizes include:

Cloud and Kin family photoshoot

York Sport family swim

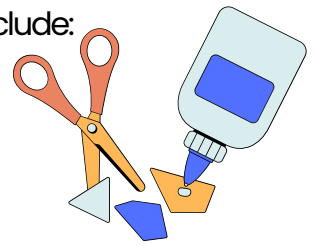
Other family days out and much, much more...



Update on funding requests

FODs have approved to fund lots of exciting things at school recently. These include:

- Early Years outdoor activity items
- New tarpaulin to cover the lovely new resources for Early Years
- Resources for The Nest and sensory circuits
- Games, pens and crafting equipment for lunch club
- Items for an exciting whole school art project



SPARE TROUSERS PLEASE

This is a polite request for any spare school trousers or jogging bottoms which could be donated to school. We are looking for trousers in any sizes suitable for children aged between 5 and 10.

Thank you