

13TH MARCH 2026



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

It has been another busy and exciting couple of weeks in school. Our Lower Key Stage 2 pupils thoroughly enjoyed their recent visit to the York Chocolate Story, where they learned about York's rich chocolate-making heritage and explored how some of the city's most famous treats were created. The trip was a fantastic opportunity to bring learning to life, and the children represented the school brilliantly. They also brought back a lot of delicious-looking sweet treats, which were proudly paraded past me as I stood on the school gate at the end of the day!

Back in school, we also celebrated World Book Day in a slightly different way this year. As it is the Year of Reading, we decided that rather than celebrating reading for just one day, we would celebrate it for a whole week! Children spent time talking about their favourite books and authors, taking part in class activities and enjoying opportunities to read together. It was wonderful to welcome families into school for our Reading Café, where children and adults could relax with a good book, take part in some fantastic book-related crafts and activities, and share stories together. Of course, the week also included the much-anticipated dressing up, and it was lovely to see such a wide range of creative costumes inspired by favourite characters.

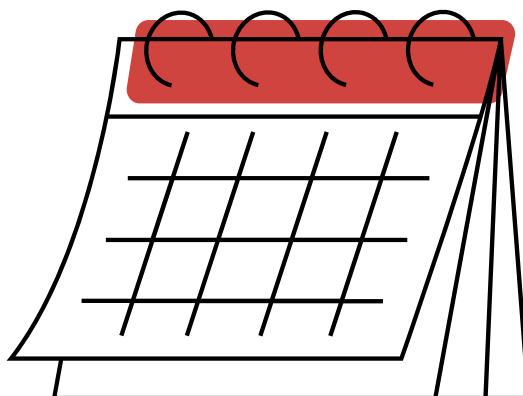
This week Derek has also been in school with his final Dringhouses Primary Book Fair before he retires at the end of this academic year. As always, it was brilliantly supported by our school community, and I look forward to sharing the total amount of commission that was raised. Thank you to everyone who helped make the week such a special celebration of reading.

Finally, a reminder about the family questionnaire that was recently sent out. Your feedback is incredibly valuable and helps us reflect on what we are doing well as a school, as well as identifying areas where we can continue to improve. If you have not yet had the opportunity to complete it, we would be very grateful if you could spare a few minutes to do so. The link to the questionnaire can be found in this newsletter.

Best wishes,
Mrs Scott-South

DDATES FOR THE HALF TERM

20th March – FODS bake sale
23rd March – FODS Easter Egg Competition
23rd March – KS1 Art Launch Afternoon
23rd March – PGL Parent Meeting (3.30–4pm)
24th March – Parent's evening
26th March – Parent's evening
27th March – Rocksteady concert
27th March – Winning house treat
27th March – KS1 DT Day– sewing project
27th March – FODS end of term treat
27th March – End of term



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

Dringhouses Primary School is working in partnership with the Parent Carer Forum and the City of York Council to reflect on the relationship between school and families — looking at what we do well and where we can improve.

To support this, please find below a link to the family questionnaire. This will focus on opportunities for family and parental engagement and will also include many of our annual family survey questions.

<https://forms.gle/iNWbnGciSCBC87pX8>



Your feedback is incredibly important to us. The more responses we receive, the better we can understand the experiences of our families and continue to strive to offer the very best that we can.

FAMILY MATTERS YORK COURSE– APRIL 2026



Handling Anger in the Family

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.

Sign up today to secure your free place!

Course starts Tuesday 21st April 7-9pm

@ Dringhouses Primary School

Thank you to those who have already registered/signed up for the course– we still have places available!

We are delighted to let you know that Family Matters York will be delivering 5 free sessions on Handling Anger in the Family course.

The course will take place here at school, on a Tuesday evening from 7:00–9:00pm, on the following dates:

21st and 28th April

5th, 12th and 19th May

Please complete this form <https://forms.gle/NACRaxmVJWCP4ArQ6> if you would like to attend.

PHASE NEWS: KS1

KS1 have had a fantastic start to the spring term with our exciting learning project, "Art Attack." The children have shown great enthusiasm and creativity, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved so far. To launch our new topic, we began with a special art afternoon where the children created their own clay tiles. The children worked with great focus and creativity, and it was wonderful to see them experimenting with different techniques to produce their own unique pieces.

Throughout the term, we have also enjoyed creating a variety of different artworks. One particular highlight was recreating Van Gogh's famous sunflowers. The children carefully observed the shapes, colours and textures in the painting and worked hard to capture these in their own versions. The finished pieces were vibrant and full of character!



At the very start of the term, we also enjoyed a Seasonal Change Afternoon with a focus on winter. We began by playing a fun game of *Seasonal Corners*, where the children listened carefully to clues and moved to the corner that represented the correct season. Afterwards, we headed outdoors to look for signs of winter in our environment.



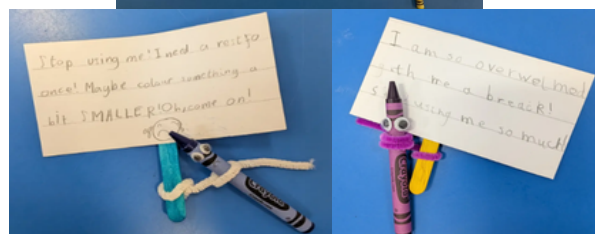
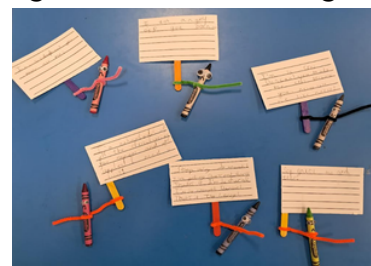
The children then carried out an exciting science investigation over time to explore how different leaves survive winter conditions. We modelled three types of leaves using wet paper towels:

- An open paper towel to represent a broad deciduous leaf (such as a sycamore)
- A tightly rolled paper towel to represent an evergreen needle
- A folded paper towel placed between wax paper to represent the waxy surface of a holly leaf

The children discussed what makes a fair test, then observed how quickly each "leaf" dried when hung outside on our washing line 'tree branch'. They recorded and analysed their results to decide which type of leaf would be most likely to survive cold, dry winter months and stay on a tree all year round. It was fantastic to see the children thinking scientifically and explaining their ideas. We also finished the afternoon by getting creative and designing our own winter clothing!

In English, we have loved our key text, *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt. The children designed and made their own crayons and wrote imaginative letters in role as different crayons from the story. We have been so impressed with their creativity and growing confidence in writing, and we can't wait to share their work with you at Parents' Evening.

It has been a brilliant start to the term, and we are incredibly proud of the KS1 children for their enthusiasm, creativity and hard work. We are looking forward to even more exciting learning in the weeks ahead!



SPOTLIGHT ON... HISTORY AT DRINGHOUSES

History is huge, here at Dringhouses. For many years, including this one, children have loved to experience the expertise of our teachers and the extra curricular support of the incredible Catherine who occasionally joins us for a History to life workshop.

Starting in EYFS children learn about the difference between now and the past – discussing their families and what the world around them looked like before they were born! This Spring, KS1 have studied the titanic and the effect of the icebergs on the past and the planet now. LKS2 continue with York Glorious York! Discovering how chocolate has affected and changed York's history – all the while linking in our wonderful text Charlie and the Chocolate factory. Finally, UKS2 dove into the early 1900's, studying WWII – launching their learning with boot camp, code breaking and some rationing activities.

What has your learner's favourite bit about Dringy History been this year?

LKS2 TRIP TO CHOCOLATE STORIES

LKS2 had their York's Chocolate Story trip. After the brisk walk into the City centre we were ready to explore! Children learnt about the history of York's chocolate industry including the Rowntree and Terry family then had the chance to experience chocolate making, starting from the Cacao pod. We created chocolate lollies, watched chocolatiers and designed our own bars, all in one day!



WORLD BOOK DAY

We also had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Week. The children confidently shared their favourite books, and it was lovely to see such a wide range of genres being enjoyed. One of the highlights was our Reading Café afternoon, where adults joined us to share books and take part in reading activities together. The children also dazzled us with their fantastic World Book Day costumes, enjoyed designing new front covers for their favourite stories, and had a great time buddying up across the school for paired reading.



CHEWING GUM

A quick reminder to all families that chewing gum is not permitted in school. Unfortunately, gum can cause damage to carpets, furniture and outdoor areas when it is not disposed of properly, and it can be difficult to remove.

Please help us keep our school clean and tidy by ensuring that children do not bring chewing gum into school. We appreciate your support in reinforcing this message with your child. Thank you for your cooperation.

SERVICE FAMILIES

A gentle reminder...

Over the past few days, there has been significant news and social media coverage about the escalating situation in the Middle East.

This is a gentle reminder that reports involving military action or international tension can affect Service children more than we may realise. Children often pick up snippets of conversations, headlines, or online content, and it can sometimes be confusing for them to distinguish between events happening overseas and the role of their own parent(s) when deployed or away for work.

We have seen in the past that periods of intense global news coverage can lead to increased anxiety or uncertainty for some children. With this in mind, please don't be afraid to have calm, age-appropriate conversations at home and to invite children to ask questions if they are feeling unsure. Often, simple reassurance from a trusted adult can make a significant difference.



LUNCHTIME PLAY WORKERS

We are currently recruiting for Lunchtime Play Workers (formally known as midday supervisory assistants or MSAs) to join our enthusiastic and dedicated team.

Multiple roles are available and no prior experience is required – full on the job training will be provided. Immediate starts are available, however successful applicants will be subject to satisfactory safer recruitment pre-employment checks.

Term Time Only, Monday to Friday 11:45am – 13:15pm

Living Wage Employer £12.69ph (April 26 pay award pending)

Please find the application form here:

<https://dringhousesprimary.org/2025/02/12/lunchtime-play-workers-2/>

FODS EASTER EGG COMPETITION



It's time for Dringhouses Eggsellent Egg Decorating Competition!!

Here's what to do:

- Get your thinking caps on and think of an ingenious idea
- Get creative
- Bring your eggy masterpiece in to the hall before school on **Monday 23rd March** and put it on the correct table for your age group, or on the 'family entry' table
- Your creation must be clearly labelled with your name, class, year group and whether this is your child's individual effort, or a family entry.
- If you are feeling generous, you could tape a suggested donation of £1 or £2 to your entry which will go towards FODS who will use it to buy lots of fabulous extras for school
- There will be one prize for each year group and one family entry prize

Have Fun!!