

1ST MAY 2026



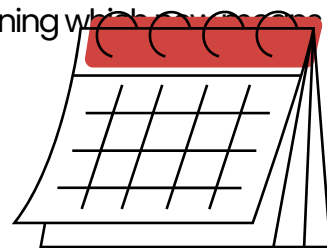
SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

This week in school it has been SATs week and we are incredibly proud of our Year 6 children for their determination and positive attitude! They approached each day with confidence, worked exceptionally hard and demonstrated the progress they have made during their time at school. Their perseverance, maturity and willingness to try their very best have been wonderful to see. We would also like to thank our staff and families for their continued support and encouragement, which has helped the children feel calm, confident and ready to succeed. A special thank you also goes to our kitchen staff for providing delicious bacon sandwiches each morning – a much-appreciated treat that helped start the day with smiles and full stomachs! Well done, Year 6 – you should all be very proud of yourselves!

Meanwhile it has been another busy and exciting couple of weeks across school! Our LKS2 children had a fantastic trip to Magna Science Adventure Centre, where they enjoyed a range of engaging and interactive learning experiences. We also came together as a whole school to celebrate the 100th birthday of David Attenborough, spending time reflecting on his incredible work and the importance of caring for our planet. Meanwhile, Class 3 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Howsham Mill, exploring nature and learning more about the environment. To end the week on a high, our KS2 discos, organised by FODs, were a huge success and great fun for everyone involved. Thank you to all staff, volunteers and families who helped make these events so memorable for the children. And just to finish off all this good news I have completed my fire warden training which I am now able to call myself an unofficial firefighter – hurrah!

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and we will see you on Monday.



DATES FOR THE HALF TERM

Best wishes,
Mrs Scott-South

418th – 21st May – FODS Sponsored Joke Event
18th May – Howsham Mill Trip Class 4
19th May – Year 3 Cinema Night (4.30–6.30pm)

20th May – Howsham Mill Trip Class 5
20th May – EYFS Parent Event AM Back Playground
20th May – Yr6 Brownlee Triathlon
21st May – Winning house play on the field
21st May – KS1 Parent Event – 2.30–3pm (Hall)
21st May – FODs bake sale
21st May – End of half term
22nd May – Staff training (inset day)

PHASE NEWS: KS1

Key Stage 1 have had a fantastic and very busy start to the half term! We began with an exciting 'bee' workshop, where we were visited by Alan, a real beekeeper. He taught us all about bees and their hives, and the children loved exploring the equipment and asking thoughtful questions. It was a wonderful way to launch our new topic, Buzzing!

In English, the children have been amazing us with their writing. We started by exploring *Omar, The Bees and Me* by Helen Mortimer, which inspired some fantastic story writing. We have now moved on to a non-fiction text, *From Egg to Bee* by Camilla de la Bédoyère, and are writing non-chronological reports. The children already know so much about bees—do ask them at home to share their knowledge with you!

In DT, the children have enjoyed creating sliding mechanisms and using levers and pivots to make their own moving bee pictures. In Art, we have been busy making clay bees, learning different techniques to shape and join the clay.

Our Science learning has focused on plants, where we have been comparing bulbs and seeds. We have set up investigations by planting onion sets and creating grass heads—we are looking forward to watching them grow and giving them some very creative haircuts!

In Music, we have been exploring the sections of the orchestra and listening to *The Flight of the Bumblebee*. The children have taken part in fun activities inspired by bees, including movement games and singing, and have begun creating their own simple musical pieces using tuned percussion.

The children also enjoyed taking part in workshops during Police Action Day, where they tried on police uniform, discovered how heavy it is, explored fingerprinting, and asked lots of great questions.

It's only week three, and we have already done so many amazing things! We are looking forward to the rest of the half term, including our upcoming trip to Howsham Mill, a Spring Seasonal Change Day, and a special David Attenborough Day filled with fun activities celebrating his incredible life.



SPOTLIGHT ON... WRITING AT DRINGHOUSES



Alongside our work on oracy and reading, writing remains a central pillar of our curriculum at Dringhouses. We believe that being a great writer starts with being an inspired thinker. In our explicit writing lessons, children take part in a range of immersive activities—such as acting in role, following a recipe, or creating artwork—to build a deep understanding of a topic before they even pick up a pen. By the time they begin analysing texts and drafting their own pieces, they have a wealth of ideas and experiences to draw upon.

Writing at Dringhouses isn't just limited to English lessons; it is a skill that lives across the whole curriculum. Whether it is writing up detailed experiments in science, crafting historical recounts, or reviewing masterpieces in art, our pupils understand that writing is a vital tool for communicating their ideas, opinions, and feelings in every subject.

To help our pupils rise to the challenge of such a varied curriculum, we focus on the essential building blocks:

- **Handwriting:** We use the Pen Pals scheme to develop fluent, legible, and proud writers.
- **Spelling:** Pupils build their word power through FFT in EYFS and KS1, and Spelling Shed in KS2.
- **Composition:** Through high-quality texts, children learn to write clearly and effectively, acquiring a wide vocabulary and an understanding of how language works.

Our children take immense pride in their work, and we have seen some excellent examples across the school recently. In EYFS, children have been busy writing their own imaginative versions of 'Billy's Bucket', while KS1 have produced fascinating non-chronological reports about 'The Secret Lives of Bees'.

In Key Stage 2, the writing has been equally impressive. LKS2 used their recent visit to The York Chocolate Story as inspiration for their reports, and UKS2 have been busy documenting the dangers of the Yellow Spotted Lizard from their class text, 'Holes'.

How You Can Help at Home

You can support your child's writing journey by encouraging them to see themselves as authors in everyday life:

- **Write for a Purpose:** Encourage your child to help with shopping lists, write thank-you notes, or keep a diary of their weekend adventures.
- **Be Word Curious:** When reading together, pick out an interesting "ambitious" word and see if you can use it in a sentence during dinner.
- **Celebrate the Process:** Ask your child to read their writing aloud to you. Hearing their own "writer's voice" helps them check if their ideas are clear and coherent.

By linking our high-quality texts with learning across the curriculum, we are helping our pupils become enthusiastic, creative, and lifelong writers!

POLICE ACTION DAY

We were recently delighted to welcome our local police officers into school for a fantastic Police Action Day. The children had a brilliant time exploring different aspects of police work, including trying on parts of the police uniform and learning what each item is used for. One of the highlights of the day was taking their own fingerprints, which sparked lots of curiosity and excitement. The pupils also enjoyed asking thoughtful questions and hearing firsthand from the police men and women about their important roles in keeping our community safe. It was an engaging and memorable experience for everyone involved!



PARKING

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone in our school community, we would like to remind all parents and visitors about the importance of safe and respectful parking outside the school, especially on St Helen's Road.



Please be reminded that only vehicles displaying a **Blue Badge** should be parking on St Helen's Road, as this area is designated for those with accessibility needs. We ask that all other vehicles refrain from parking in these spaces to ensure that those who need them have access to convenient parking and pedestrians have safe access to the school grounds.

Additionally, we must all be mindful and respectful of our local residents. It is essential that we park in designated areas and avoid causing any disruption to the neighborhood. Respectful and considerate behavior towards those who live near the school sets a positive example for our children. By modeling respectful conversations and actions, we teach our students how to behave respectfully in all aspects of life.

The **Cross Keys** Pub has kindly made their car park available for our families to use during drop off and pick up times to help keep our local area safe.



Let's continue working together to maintain a safe, respectful, and considerate environment for everyone in our school community.

FAMILY SURVEY – ARBOUR APP



We have also received valuable feedback from parents regarding the Arbour app, which was highlighted during the recent family survey. We understand that some parents have encountered difficulties or frustrations when using the app, and we are keen to address these concerns. In order to provide specific and constructive feedback to the Arbour team, we would appreciate it if parents could share more detailed information about the issues they've experienced. Whether it's related to navigation, functionality, or any other aspect of the app, your feedback will help us work with the company to resolve any challenges and improve the overall user experience. Please feel free to reach out to the school office via admin@dringhouses.co.uk with any further comments or suggestions you may have.

FODS NEWS



KS2 Disco

Don't forget the much anticipated KS2 Disco is fast approaching, it is being held on Thursday 14th May. There will be music, food and lots of laughter, you can get your tickets on Parent pay. The disco times are:

LKS2 (years 3 and 4) – straight from school, the children are asked to take their dancing shoes and best disco outfits to school where the children will get changed in their classroom straight after school before going down to the hall together. Pick up will be from the school office at 4:30pm.

UKS2 (year 5 and 6) – the children are to come to the office at 4:45pm ready to party. They can be collected at the same place at 5:45pm.

If your child goes to afterschool club please let the know the arrangements for your child.

Joke Fundraiser – Get Ready to Giggle!

This May, pupils will be invited to take part in our **Sponsored Joke Fundraiser**, a joyful whole school event designed to celebrate playful use of language, build children's confidence, and raise funds to support inclusivity across the school.

Children will collect sponsorship by telling jokes to friends and family, before choosing their favourite joke to share in class. Each class will select a winning joke, with those pupils invited to perform at a special whole school assembly on **21st May**.

A teacher panel will then choose the top three jokes, which will be featured in the school newsletter after half term. Top 3 winning jokes will receive a FODs sponsored prize.

We're looking forward to lots of laughter along the way!

Sponsor forms and parent information will be sent home with children on 5th May, with forms and joke cards due to return to school on Monday 18th May.

Donations can be made via sponsor forms; parent pay or a just giving link that will be shared with parents via the Facebook year groups.

If anyone has any questions, please contact Marianne – 07867778685

